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SPORTS REVIEW

47817

August 1986

Wrestling

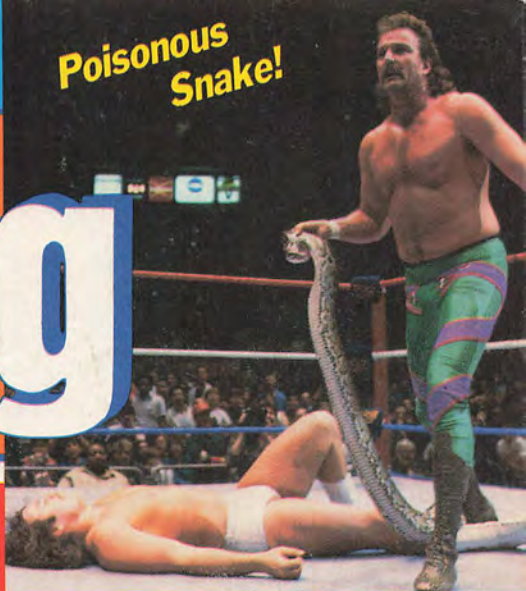
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MACHO MEN HAVE MORE FUN

Women are not excited by men who are skeletons. They like men of form and substance. They like men who look good in their clothes and out. They like men who look like men. If you are one of those who knows this and have been trying in vain to do something about it, this is your lucky day. Your search is ended. Your body is about to embark on a trip to its ideal shape and form. *ShapeUp* is here to shape you up . . . and we mean it sincerely. You are about to gain weight . . . and not just flab, but the right amount in the right places. You'll see!

SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthy. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

GAIN STAMINA AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TOO.

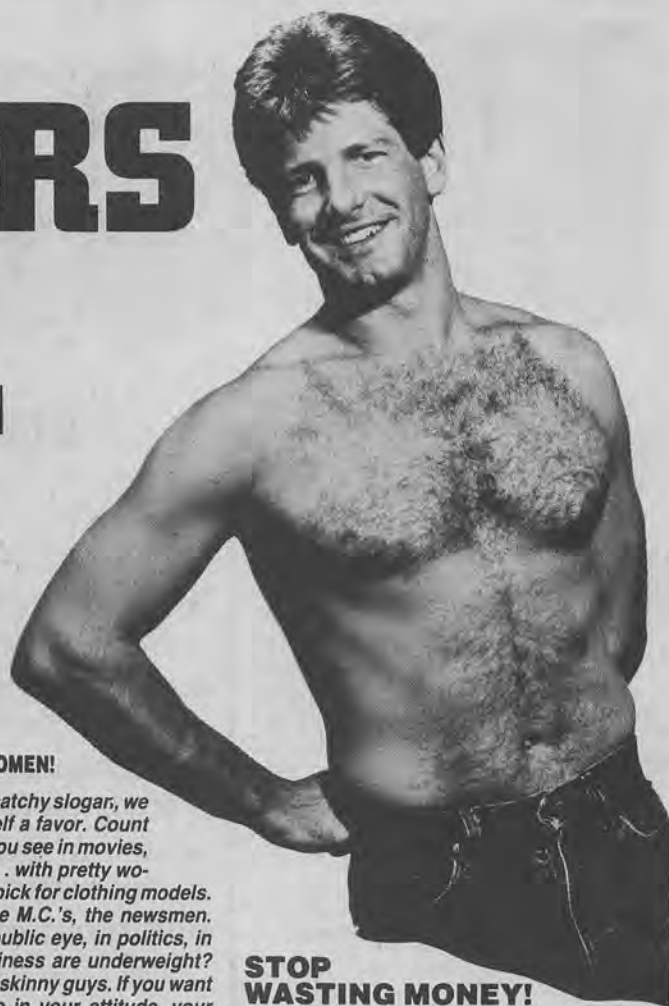
Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

GAIN WEIGHT! GAIN WOMEN!

*If you think that's just a catchy slogan, we hope you will do yourself a favor. Count how many skinny men you see in movies, or on TV or anywhere . . . with pretty women. Notice whom they pick for clothing models. See the announcers, the M.C.'s, the newsmen. How many men in the public eye, in politics, in leadership roles in business are underweight? Not even astronauts are skinny guys. If you want to experience a change in your attitude, your business progress, your lifestyle, see what 5, 10, 15 pounds can do for you. See how it adds to your personal esteem, your confidence and, best of all, your well-being. Your day will come . . . and thank your lucky stars, it's within sight with *ShapeUp* working for you.*

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In these times when women are free to express themselves and pick and choose their men, you don't need a handicap . . . especially when it's so easy to put yourself in the forefront of competition. Why not look your best? And you will if you feel your best. And you'll feel your best when you gain the kind of nutrition that builds your body to its highest potential. Everyone knows that a healthy body brings a healthy mind and the kind of outlook that makes you want to kick up your heels . . . and go out and lick the world. Yes, with *ShapeUp*, you give yourself a super-lift of confidence, built into its wondrous formula, that's compounded to perk you up and give you a winning attitude.



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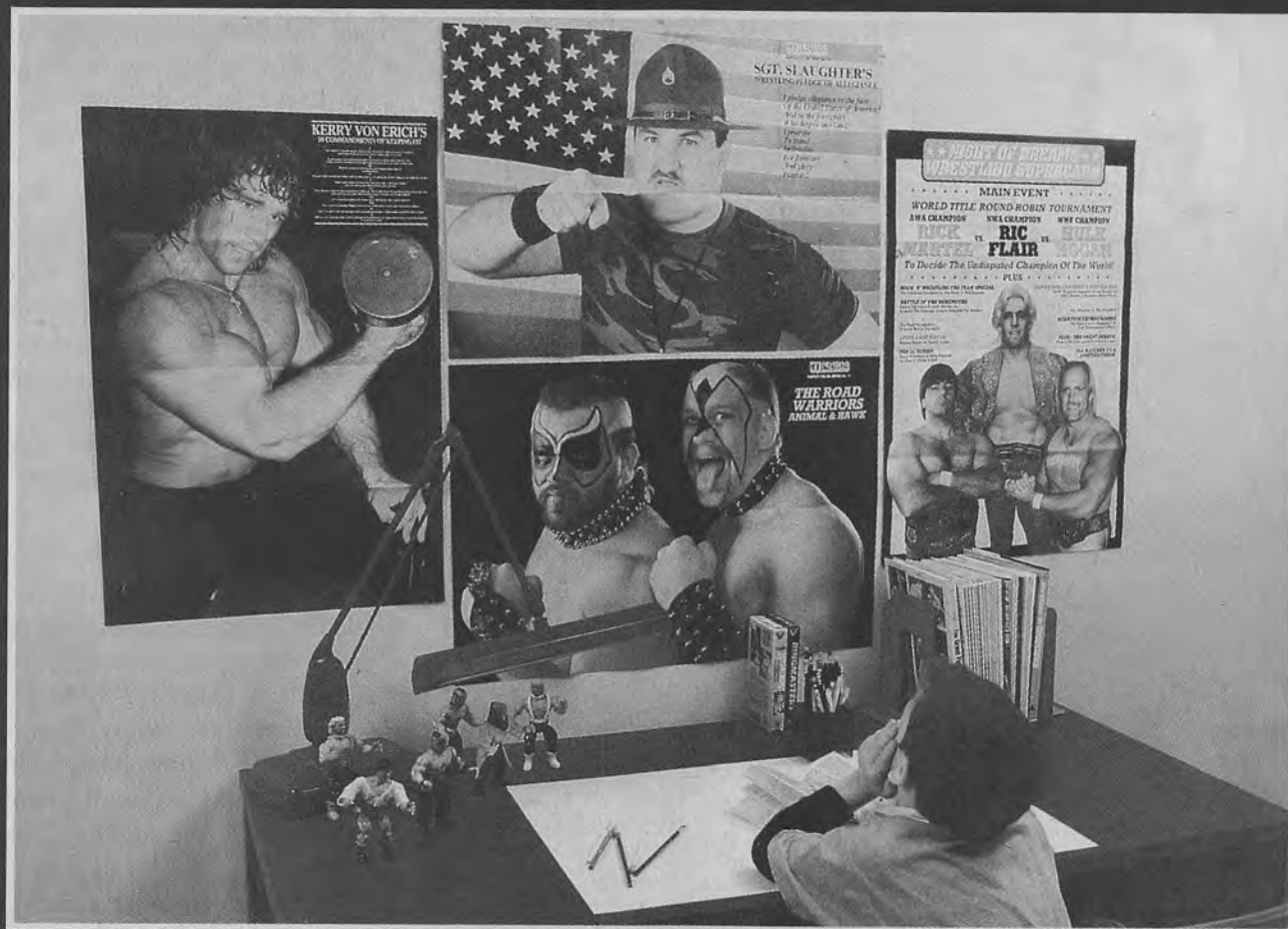
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WHAT PRICE COURAGE?

Although I agree with Matt Brock that Hulk Hogan showed a tremendous amount of courage by stepping into the ring so quickly after a potentially debilitating injury ("Hulk Hogan Rises From The Ashes Of Phoenix," June 1986), may I be bold enough to suggest that Mr. Brock was only scratching the surface of this entire matter?



His own ribs heavily bandaged, Hulk Hogan tries to even the advantage as he applies a bearhug against Randy Savage. Hogan displayed incredible courage by coming back two days after his injury, writes John Flynn.

Let's take the facts one at a time. First of all, Brock writes that "Hogan had suffered a compound concussion, slight muscle tears, and partial damage to the third and sixth vertebrae." Earlier in the story, he points out that 22,000 tickets had been sold for the Madison Square Garden show and the WWF had yet to announce that Hogan might not wrestle.

Call me cynical, but wrestling is a sport and sports are big business. Hulk Hogan is a great champion with even greater financial value to the WWF. Imagine if he was scheduled to wrestle

and didn't show up. Because of the lack of daily media coverage of wrestling, few fans knew of Hogan's injury.

If the WWF had announced on the night of the Garden card that Hogan wouldn't wrestle, Brock's fears would have been realized. A riot probably would have taken place. And if the WWF had released news of the injury a few days prior to the card, many, if not most, of the fans would have asked for a refund.

Without being too blunt, I think you get the picture. What we witnessed that night was, in fact, an amazing display of athletic ability. That old cliché about "playing in pain" was never so true. But I have one question to ask: Was it Hogan's decision?

JOHN FLYNN
Suffern, NY

CORNETTE'S REASONS

This letter is in response to Jim Cornette's recent boasts that The Midnight Express are better than The Road Warriors ("10 Reasons Why The Midnight Express Are Better Than The Road Warriors," June 1986). Bull!

The Road Warriors are the number one tag team in the world of professional wrestling today. I don't see The Midnight Express win any important matches, let alone title defenses, without Mr. Cornette's distractive abilities or his tennis racket.

The Legion of Doom has secured victories over such prominent tag teams as the Koloffs, Fabulous Ones, Long Riders, and The Fabulous Freebirds without the help of their manager, "Precious" Paul Ellering. Heck, The Midnight Express can't even get by the tandem of Ron Bass and Don Kernodle without the aid of Cornette's infamous tennis racket, which just happens to be loaded.

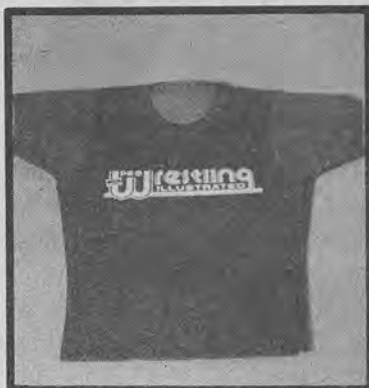
The match I refer to was on WTBS a few months ago. When Bass put a clawhold on Bobby Eaton, Cornette whacked him with his racket, which earned a disqualification, but still let the Express retain their NWA tag team title. The Road Warriors never need

(Continued on page 47)

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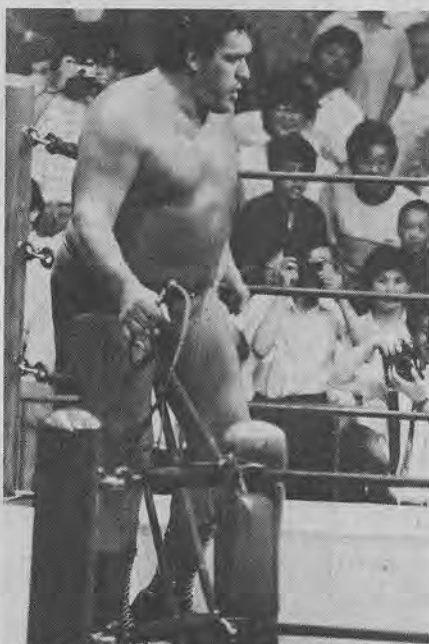
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THE TATTLER

KUMAMOTO, JAPAN: In life, there are some things you can always depend upon. The sun rises in the east and sets in the west. The mailman delivers come rain, snow, sleet, or gloom of night. Death and taxes. Antonio Inoki never gets pinned. And Andre the Giant never loses.

So it was until a recent tag team match here when Inoki, the man famous—or infamous—in the United States for his wrestling-boxing match with Muhammad Ali, suffered his first pinfall loss in 12 years, at the hands of Andre the Giant.

"It was the most stunning event in Japanese wrestling history," said a Japanese promoter. "One minute, the crowd is going crazy, chanting



ANDRE THE GIANT

all kinds of things and urging on the wrestlers. Then, before anybody knew it, Andre pins Inoki and this incredible hush comes over the crowd. Everybody was in shock. Imagine, the great Inoki getting pinned! It's simply unheard of in this country. Even Andre seemed to be unsure of what he had done."

As usual, Andre was joined by his notorious manager Ichimasa Wakamatsu, who continuously interfered in the match and was a great factor in its outcome. Andre the Giant is not popular with the fans in Japan and the megaphone-carrying Wakamatsu is the main reason. Inoki is arguably the most popular wrestler in the history of Japan, and fans throughout the country mourned the event.

"I wish I wasn't here for this," said a tearful fan at ringside. "I was there when the great Sadaharu Oh retired from baseball and up until now, that was the saddest event in my life. The only consolation in this is that he lost to Andre, who has never been beaten."

—Masanori Murikami

MEMPHIS, TN: J.D. Costello and The M.O.D. Squad are quickly making a name for themselves in this area. As you may recall, Costello is the mother-backed manager who claims that he "has been given one last chance by Mom to become successful." So, he joined forces with

(Continued on page 62)

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ANDRE CAMUS
Montreal, Quebec

LARRY COHEN
Chicago, IL

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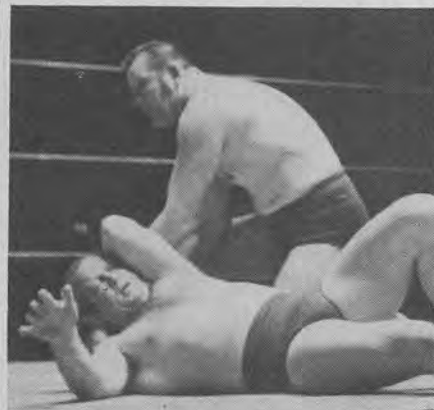
SCRAPBOOK

JULY – AUGUST 1966

THE WRESTLING WORLD mourned the death of one of its all-time greats, Ed "Strangler" Lewis, who passed away at the age of 76 on August 7. A five-time National Wrestling Alliance champion, Lewis' career spanned 44 years, in which he appeared in 6,200 matches and lost only 33 times. Lewis first won the title in 1920 with a victory over Joe Stecher in New York, earning an un-

precedented \$125,000 for his effort. His career earnings exceeded the \$3 million mark. His greatest match, perhaps the greatest match in the history of professional wrestling, was a rematch with Stecher in Omaha, Nebraska, that started at four in the afternoon and ended at nine at night. After the five-hour brawl, Stecher spent two weeks in the hospital suffering from extreme exhaustion. Lewis went home disappointed and wrestled the next day. There will never be another like him ... Verne Gagne, unable to get an AWA title match against champion Mad Dog Vachon (the two became AWA tag team champions years later), formed

a very successful tag team with Wilbur Synder ... Dory Funk Jr. failed in his first attempt to wrestle the NWA championship from Gene Kiniski ... Kiniski later retained his NWA belt with a disqualification victory over Fritz Von Erich in Fort Worth, Texas ... Wahoo McDaniel



NWA World champion Gene Kiniski gives a wrestling lesson to a future champion, Dory Funk Jr. Kiniski would have a tougher defense against Fritz Von Erich.



Ed "Strangler" Lewis had the wrestling world in a chokehold for 44 years. He was, in the eyes of most historians, the greatest wrestler of all time.

announced he would return to wrestling following his first season with the Miami Dolphins ... Bruno Sammartino successfully defended his WWF championship against Magnificent Maurice, Baron Scicluna, and Bill Miller ... Rookie sensation Jack Brisco, already with a strong following from his brilliant amateur career, began his pro career in his home state of Oklahoma.

JULY – AUGUST 1971

JACK BRISCO DEFEATED NWA champion Dory Funk Jr. in Miami Beach. However, due to the technicality of a disqualification in one of the three falls, Funk retained his title. Most felt it would be just a matter of
(Continued on page 54)

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Did you know there is an incredible way you can own automobiles for \$200 or less? That's right! \$200, \$150, even as low as \$75.00. And it works for sports cars, luxury sedans, four-wheel-drives, pick-ups and vans.

It wasn't long ago that life really had me pinned down. I was unemployed and deeply in debt. Nothing it seemed would ever go right for me. In fact I had just failed at another business attempt. That was like the final straw. I was miserable, depressed and had lost every ounce of my self confidence.

Then like a lightning bolt from the sky, I discovered something fantastic, something unbelievable. A special way to own automobiles for \$200 or even less!

Don't ask me why this happened to me, because I really don't know. All I know is it came to me when I needed it most, and I didn't question it. I was so excited all I really could think about was trying it out.

So I scraped together the money and tried it. Bingo! It worked even better than I ever expected. Fact is, it worked so good I have already used it five times to own four cars and one truck, two of which only cost \$100 each. What's more, I plan on using this secret for the rest of my life to own dozens more.

Well, you might be thinking I should use this special knowledge to set up some car lots and make a load of money. I did consider that. But to be honest, I really don't want the headaches of running a full scale business. However, I would like to profit some from my discovery. So I wrote down my secret and had it printed.

I am offering it to you for just 10 dollars. I figure that I can sell enough to pay off some bills, take a vacation, and put a down payment on a house for my family. In return you will learn something incredible - a way to own automobiles for \$200 or less.

Imagine what you can do with all the money you save. You could buy boats, take exciting vacations, or even put in a swimming pool.

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I realize this whole concept may still sound too good to be true. The truth is if I were in your shoes I would be skeptical too! So I have included some testimonials from people who have already read and used my information:

• James, your secret is incredible! I used it to own a fantastic truck for less than \$85. I wish I had known about this years ago.
Charles M., Florida.

• James, I admit I was skeptical at first, but this method really does work for women. It is truly the poor person's way to own fancy cars.
Cindy D., Atlanta, Georgia.

• Ten dollars is a very small price to pay for this super information. Way to go James! You have made it possible for me to own those beautiful cars I used to only dream about.
B.T., West Virginia.



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The Inquiring Reporter

No one knows wrestling better than the fans.

Because of this, we're now giving these experts a forum for their views and opinions. Each month, we'll ask a controversial question and have the fans answer—no matter what those answers might be!

THE QUESTION:

"Is there any particular wrestler you would or wouldn't want your son or daughter to emulate?"

THE ANSWERS:

Rebecca Yates, Cleveland: "I have two young boys who watch wrestling all the time and whenever I see Adrian Adonis come on the television, I practically cringe. I'll say to them, 'Look boys, this is what you don't want to be. A fairy, a big fat queer.' Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against fags, but let's face it, they're perverts. Now this Adonis guy gets in front of a camera and tells the whole world he's gay and there's nothing wrong with it. You'd better believe there's plenty wrong with it. I'm so nervous that I hide all my makeup before I go out and keep my lingerie under lock and key. I'm not taking any chances with my children."

John Taylor, Nashville, TN: "Better dead than red, that's what I always say. But one day I took my son to the wrestling matches and couldn't believe what he was saying. Little John Jr. here was rooting for Nikita Koloff. So I took him by the collar and I dragged his little butt down the aisle, into the parking lot, threw him into the back



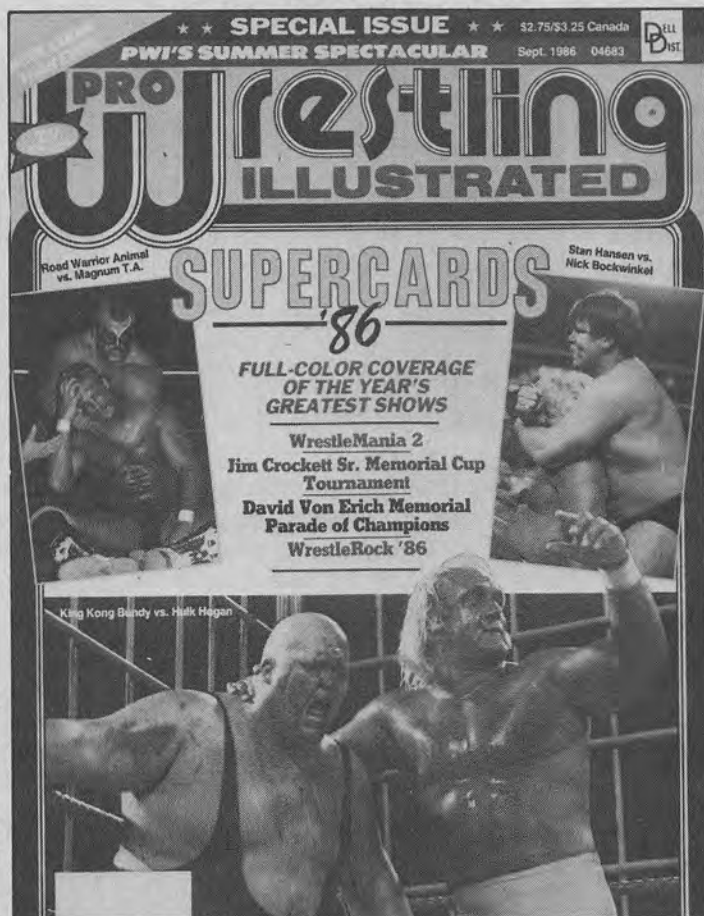
Adorable Adrian Adonis is not the type of man Rebecca Yates of Cleveland would like to see her children emulate.

seat of my car and put the pedal to the floor. The little critter was pretty scared and for pretty good reason. I gave him a beating that he'll never forget. I explained, very calmly, that this Koloff guy was a Russian, a communist, and a threat to our very way of life."

Jon Beni, Los Angeles: "I'm not sure if there are any wrestlers I don't want my children to emulate. I believe that even the worst person has good points. But there are a few wrestlers who I truly think are worth setting up as positive role models. Ronnie Garvin, for

(Continued on page 60)

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TOP WRESTLE

YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, *Sports Review Wrestling* will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:

ASK THE STARS
Sports Review Wrestling
Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

"What was the most satisfying moment of your career?"

Submitted by:
Duke Carbo
Athens, GA



HARLEY RACE

"The first NWA title I ever took from Dory Funk Jr. back in '73 was my biggest thrill. Of course, I've had a lot to choose from since then, but the first always tasted the sweetest. Funk was at the top of his game and no one expected me to take him. Of course, I've been underrated my entire career. Seven NWA titles later I'm ready for a new challenge. Bring on the most overrated wrestler of all time. Bring on Hulk Hogan."



RIC FLAIR

"That's an impossible question. I'm never satisfied. A champ can't afford to be satisfied. You let your guard down for a single moment and someone is liable to steal your crown. I'll be satisfied after I retire. Then I'll gloat over all my accomplishments. I'll share a highlight with you, though. My second NWA title victory. I whupped Harley Race for the crown in a steel cage, beat him good, too. I know a lot of bookies who took a bath on that bout."



STAN HANSEN

"It was a rainy night in Texas some years back and I was driving to the matches when some Mexican runs me off the road in his cholomobile. By the time I got to the ring I was fuming. The guy they had against me that night I don't even remember his name, but he took one look at me and I know he wanted to go home. I grabbed him by the collar and broke his neck with one twist. I was fine after that. Just fine."



BRUISER BRODY

"My most satisfying moment came just recently. On my last Japanese tour, one of them little Orientals hands me a check for \$100,000 and shakes my hand. Says it's a bonus for being such a damned good wrestler and for drawing them humongous crowds. Hot damn. A hundred grand. That'll keep me well fed through the summer at least. Those Japs really know how to treat their people. You do a good job for them, you're paid a good wage. That's satisfying."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



JIM CROCKETT

"Every night that Jim Crockett Promotions puts on a successful wrestling card is satisfying. When I walk around the arena and see families sitting together and cheering and screaming, it gives me a tremendous charge. The size of the card doesn't matter. As long as the fans walk out and feel they've gotten their money's worth, it's successful to me. We're in the business of providing thrills, and it's a very satisfying business indeed."



DICK SLATER

"When I dumped that wench Dark Journey. She begged me for another chance, but I had enough of her two-timing ways. I'm through with valets. They're nothing but big moaning headaches. When I cleaned myself of Dark Journey, I felt as good as when I piledrived Hacksaw Dugan and damn near cracked his skull. Now that I'm through with valets I can concentrate on my headbanging again."



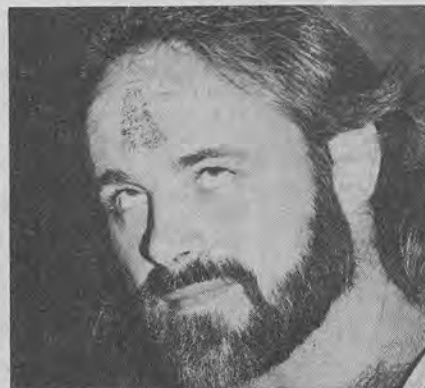
KERRY VON ERICH

"This is not a difficult question at all. Beating Ric Flair for the NWA World title in itself was a moment I'll never forget. But doing it before 43,000 fans in David's memory was a feeling I can't even begin to describe. I prayed to God that day and he responded: I felt strength on May 24, 1984, that I never felt before and haven't felt since. With God, 43,000 people, and David's memory behind me, poor Ric never had a chance."



SGT. SLAUGHTER

"When the National Anthem is played before my matches. What can be more satisfying, more inspiring than to sing that immortal first stanza? To see Old Glory waving in the breeze? It makes you wanna go out and bust some head—especially if your opponent has a vowel at the end of their name. Hear that Khadafy? Al-Kaissie? Kamala? Zbyszko? Boris Zukhov Rusky? This is America, and you are not welcome here. Satisfaction comes in defending your country."



KEVIN SULLIVAN

"My greatest satisfaction will come when Abughdadien incarnates himself into human shape and joins me in a tag team match. Then these puny mortals who call themselves strong will comprehend the meaning of real power. The power to create and destroy with a backward glance. I cackle with glee. Ragmon. Belial. Oomsha. When he will divest himself of the underworld miris cloth and join me in this world I cannot say. For wrestling's sake, I hope it is not during this century."



IVAN KOLOFF

"I enjoy many moments of deep satisfaction, watching myself and other fellow countrymen slowly erode American confidence. My biggest thrill will come when Nikita annihilates Magnum T.A. and Dusty Rhodes. Those are America's big heroes. Nikita will vanquish T.A. quickly, making borscht of his pretty face. But he will go slowly on fat Rhodes, torturing him for months before ending his career. It will provide fitting climax to American Dream's career."

BACK ISSUES OF



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July 1974/Stories include: Garea, Zbyszko, Heenan, Strongbow.

August 1974/Stories include: Sammartino, Sheik, Albano, Ladd.

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November 1974/Stories include: Garvins, Mascaras, Sammartino, Graham.

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February 1984/Stories include: Abdullah, Sawyers, Valiant, Von Erich.

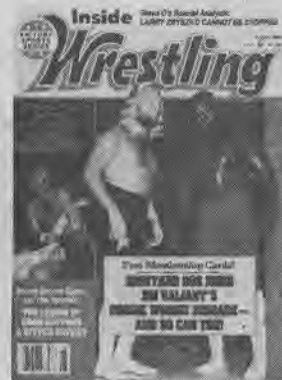
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.



AUGUST 1984

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

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July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors vs. Russians, Hillbilly Jim, Rude, Lawler.

April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Roll.

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July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, Magnum T.A.

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August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

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March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

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June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.



OCTOBER 1982

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

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October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/Stories include: 20th Anniversary, 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Lance Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen vs. Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Kevin Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Larry Zbyszko, Von Erich Family, Santana-Ventura, The Hillbillies.

June 1986/Stories include: Lex Lugar, Gino Hernandez, Flair vs. Bockwinkel, Hulk Hogan, Magnum T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

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WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

BILLY JACK HAYNES

IN THE OFTEN volatile world of professional wrestling, stability is the key to success. And almost every top wrestler has stayed in one area long enough to establish roots and benefit from the variety of top-level competition each area can provide before moving on.

The reasons are clear. One simply does not step into a new region and immediately meet the top wrestlers. In this sport, an aspiring champion must establish himself before attempting to become a star. Only then will the lucrative contracts and title shots come his way. Truly, in professional wrestling, familiarity breeds respect.

Despite this, the decision to make Billy Jack Haynes our "Wrestler Of The Month" was rather easy, although Associate Editor Eddie Ellner correctly pointed out that "there's no telling where he's going to be wrestling when this issue comes out. Who knows? He might change sports."

Indeed, Haynes is a nomad. It has often been suggested that Ric Flair's NWA World championship would be the perfect title for Haynes, since it would give him legitimate justification for wrestling in all areas of the country. For now, however, that's just speculation, although Haynes' recently won Pacific Northwest title will give him a chance to wrestle Flair for the NWA crown.

That would appear to be the only way Haynes will ever make the most of his ability and get the respect he deserves. Although Haynes has shown himself to be a fine wrestler, his refusal to stay in one area for a significant period of time continues to get in his way. The big knock against Haynes is that every time he gets established in one area and appears headed toward superstardom, he moves on to another area.

"I've heard many people say this," Haynes said, "and I guess there is some truth to it. But I'm rather young at this point and I'm trying to get a taste of wrestling in all different areas before deciding where to settle down. The time will come. Winning the Pacific Northwest title was a big step in my career."

Of course, one must wonder whether Haynes has the mental ability, or stability, to stay in one area. There are some people in this world who just can't seem to settle down. They spend their lives wandering endlessly, never sure where they'll be the following week, or the following day, for that matter. Success in one venture merely leads them on to another.

Take Haynes, for instance. In his relatively brief career, the former boxer and former bodybuilder has wrestled in Florida, Texas, the World Championship area, very briefly

in the WWF, and he is now back to where he began, the Pacific Northwest, where he recently beat Bobby Jagers for the title. Maybe Eddie Ellner is right. Perhaps Haynes will no longer be in the Pacific Northwest region when this issue hits the newsstands.

For now, however, Haynes must concentrate on capitalizing upon his great potential. A former Pacific Coast bodybuilding champion who had to convert his physique to one more suited to a contact sport, Haynes is in outstanding physical condition. He is devoted to an intense physical regimen and spends most of his free time in the gym. Not surprisingly, Haynes is considered to be one of the most powerful men in all of wrestling. It's also a rare occasion when Haynes is outhustled in the ring, although that could change now that he has the Pacific Northwest heavyweight title.

"I realize that I have something everybody wants," says Haynes, "and I'm going to have to work doubly hard to hold on to it. I have increased my training program to compensate for this. It's a difficult situation because while I'm defending my title, I'll also be after the NWA title."

Haynes is currently involved in a feud with Rip Oliver and Jagers. It all started when Haynes returned to the PNW with a trophy he had won in Japan. The trophy was left with TV announcer Don Koss. When Oliver appeared for an interview along with Jagers, he took the trophy with him and left the building. Promoter Don Owen ordered Oliver to return the trophy and wrestle Haynes or get suspended indefinitely.

Oliver showed up for the match with Haynes but did not bring the trophy. When Owen again threatened suspension, Oliver had Jagers bring the trophy to the ring. Oliver began insulting Haynes' father. When Billy Jack tried to retaliate, Jagers attacked him from behind and busted the trophy over his head. Oliver and Jagers took turns smashing the pieces of the trophy over Billy's head, opening a severe cut on his forehead and breaking his nose.

Although this incident could have caused irreparable damage, it might have done what nothing else could. In addition to defending his title, Haynes now has a feud to settle with Oliver and Jagers. This could keep him in the PNW for a good deal of time, at least long enough for Haynes to reestablish himself as one of the top wrestlers in the country.

Let his selection here serve notice that it's only a matter of time. □

Billy Jack Haynes has the Pacific Northwest title—and a reason to sit still for a while.



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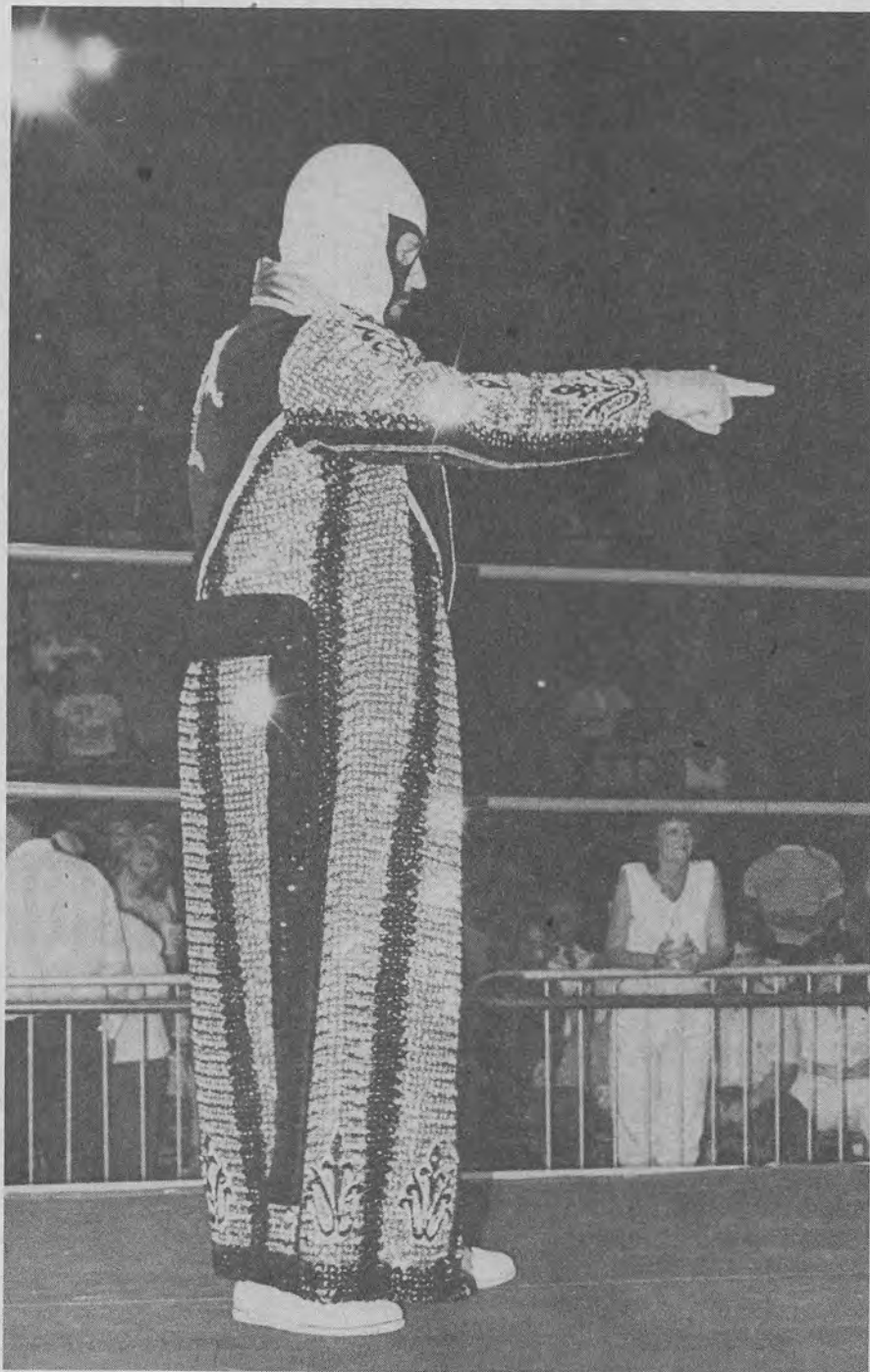
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INTERVIEW

MR. WRESTLING II



***I**T'S BEEN SAID that the more things change, the more they stay the same, but that age-old cliché certainly doesn't apply to Mr. Wrestling II.*

*After spending almost his entire 31-year career as one of the most respected and revered men in all of wrestling, Mr. Wrestling II has undergone what now appears to be a permanent change to rulebreaker. On a recent telecast of *Superstars Of Wrestling* (seen in Atlanta on WATL), Wrestling II was interviewed by Joe Pedicino and *Sports Review* Wrestling Senior Editor Bill Apter. When Pedicino openly expressed his disappointment in his former hero, Wrestling II grabbed a cup of water, threw it in Pedicino's face, and stormed off the set. Most certainly, this was the final phase in the startling transition of this veteran masked man.*

Wrestling analysts throughout the world have been unable to explain Mr. Wrestling II's move from fan favorite to rulebreaker. Looking back, there is no one particular incident that would explain why he has changed his style in the twilight of his career.

*In an insightful conversation which answered many of these questions, Mr. Wrestling II was interviewed recently by *Sports Review* Wrestling reporter Dave Rosenbaum. Although Mr. Wrestling II sidestepped many of the issues at hand, his changed attitude was readily apparent throughout the interview.*

Q: You were once one of the most popular men in all of wrestling. In fact, let me venture to say that you were adored by the younger fans and greatly respected by everyone associated with the sport. Now, at the risk of having water tossed in my face, why the change?

A: Very funny, but you know and I know that Pedicino deserved what he got. This guy calls himself a reporter and then claims to have no idea why I changed my style. If he had any understanding of the history of the sport, he'd know exactly why I changed my style. And Apter sits there like I mortally wounded the man. All I did was throw a little water in Pedicino's face and he acts like he's dying. I was just trying to wake him up.

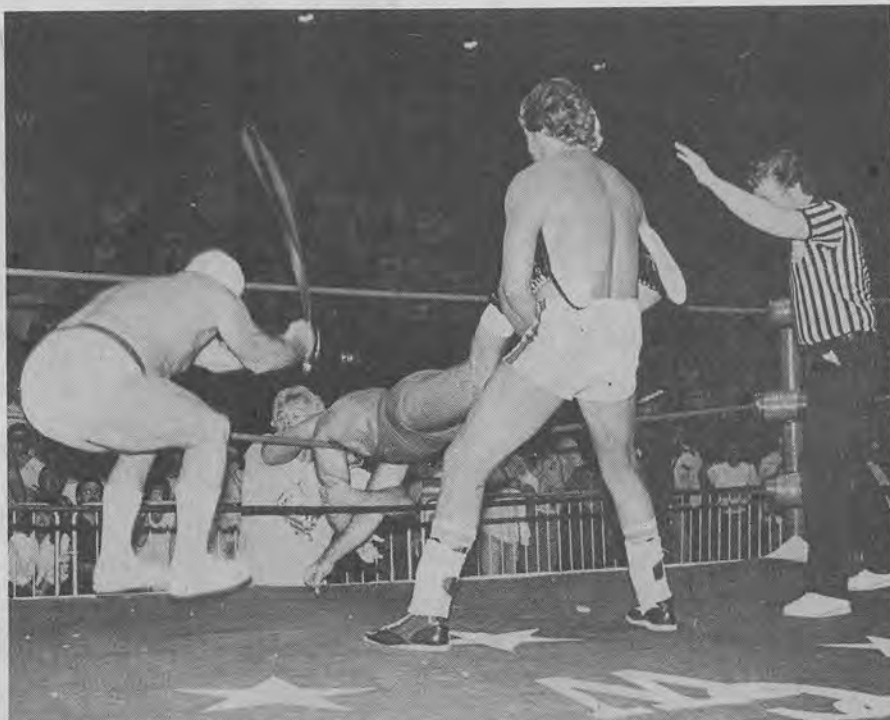
Q: So then, why did you change?

A: It's very simple, and I'll go through it once more and never again. I am, and always have been, one of the greatest professional wrestlers of all time. Look at my record. I've beaten every NWA World champion over the past 15 years. I beat [Jack] Brisco, [Harley] Race, and now Flair is afraid to wrestle me. He knows that I'm the only man alive with the ability to beat him.

Q: You still haven't gotten to the question.

A: Calm down! So as I was saying before you rudely interrupted, I go over to the WWF and you would think they'd be thrilled to have a wrestler of my caliber in their area. But what do they do? They stick me in these preliminary matches against the biggest bums around, and refuse to give me a chance. Hogan, there's another guy who's afraid to wrestle me. Here I am, a man who has wrestled for 31 years. I'm the Phil Niekro and Gordie Howe of professional wrestling. A hall of famer if there ever was one. I deserve some respect. So they spit in my face. Now I'm gonna spit in theirs.

Q: But you've always been so popular with the fans. Doesn't it hurt to



Mr. Wrestling II whips The Bullet, who is held in place by Jimmy Golden and Robert Fuller (outside the ring). Veteran announcer Gordon Solie has seen firsthand the ugly transition of Wrestling II. Solie discusses the situation with II as Jerry Stubbs, Fuller, and Golden whoop it up in the background (below).

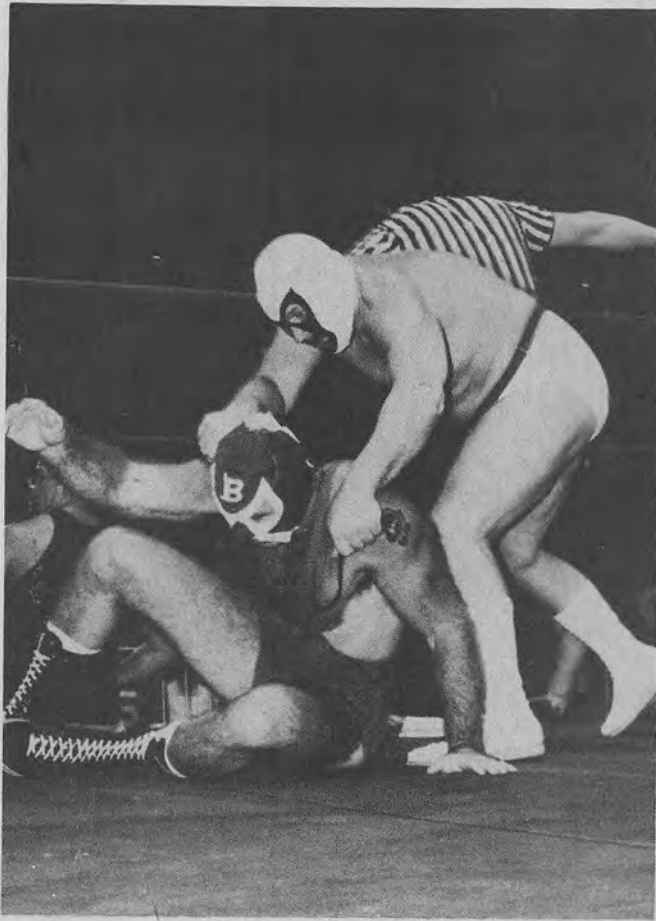


have these same fans booing you as your career winds down?

A: First of all, my career isn't winding down. If anything, I'm reaching another peak. I've gotten my second wind. And second of all, if the fans had any brains, they'd be on my side. They'd realize the way I've been treated and would back me all the way. But they don't. All they're worried about is my style of wrestling. Well, if that's the way they feel, I don't need them.

Q: At this point in your career, have your goals changed very much? I mean, do you now look at wrestling in a different way than you did before?

A: Absolutely. I'm in the sport totally for the money and any way I can get it is fine with me. If it means busting a few heads along the way, that's fine with me. If it means breaking a few rules to get what I want, that's also fine. Maybe I learned this too late in life, but you



With the referee distracted, Wrestling II takes advantage of the situation and strangles The Bullet (above left). Wrestling II wants to prove to the world that The Bullet is Bob Armstrong (above right). Annoyed with Joe Pedicino's persistent questioning, II throws a cup of water in his face and storms off the set (below).

always have to look out for yourself. You can't expect anyone to give you a break.

Q: Sounds like you've become a little bitter.

A: I don't think bitter is the correct word. I think smarter is the word I'm looking for. You know how it goes, looking out for number one. Well, call this looking out for number II because it's time for this man to start worrying about himself. I've learned something about people.

Q: Older and wiser, huh? So how did you go about returning to this area? I think many people thought that you had left forever.

A: Well, in a way, I have. The old Mr. Wrestling II is gone. This is the new version, and you're right, jerk: older and wiser. I was just floating along in the WWF and one day I got a call from Jerry Stubbs. Well, he convinced me to come down here and join Ron



Fuller's Tennessee Studd Stable in the Continental area. He told me all about the Armstrongs and this big feud they had with them, so I figured I had nothing to lose. Best move I've ever made.

Q: Why is that?

A: Why is that? Very simple. Because of that scum Bob Armstrong, or should I call him The Bullet? The man is, without a doubt, the worst excuse for a human being I've ever encountered. Imagine, this idiot Armstrong denies that he's The Bullet. What does he think I am? Who else could it be? And he has the nerve to put on a mask and try to copy me. Well, it just shows how insecure this guy is. He can't even come up with his own identity.

Q: In light of all that's happened over the past few months, do you think you'll ever get a chance to wrestle Flair for the title?

A: Not right now, but I think it'll get to the point where the NWA will have no choice but to give me a title shot, and Flair would look pretty stupid if he refused to wrestle. Imagine, backing down from a guy who has been around as long as I have! The guy looks pretty bad the way it is, always getting himself disqualified, and I think he knows that if he wrestled a guy with my experience, he'd have a little trouble doing that.

Q: You mean getting disqualified?

A: Well whaddya think, you jerk? That's what I was talking about.

Q: Okay, calm down. I think we'd better get rid of this water over here. Wouldn't want anybody to get hurt. One final question, if you don't mind. Looking back upon your career, do you have any regrets?

A: Regrets? No, none at all. I always wrestled my hardest and did the best I could. When historians look back upon the last 30 years of wrestling and chart its ups and downs, they'll see one constant. Mr. Wrestling II. Always there, always will be. □

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RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

There's a change in the wind. The Road Warriors remain atop the tag team ratings without the benefit of a major or minor title, but their grip on number one presently is tenuous at best. Their victory in the Crockett Cup tournament kept them atop the ratings for this issue, but without a championship belt of their own, look for the Warriors' 21-month stranglehold on the number one spot to perhaps end soon. Knocking at the door are **Jim Cornette's Midnight Express** and the newly-crowned WWF tag team champs, **The British Bulldogs**. The Bulldogs are arguably the hottest commodities in the sport at the moment, and would like nothing more than to take that number one tag team ranking over to the WWF. With **Hawk** and **Animal** slated for a tour of Japan very soon, their top spot ranking could disappear by next issue. We'll see.

Spotlight on the Central States. This often overlooked area is presently bursting with top talent.



Butch Reed

CENTRAL STATES

- 1—**BOB BROWN**
252, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- 2—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 3—**BUTCH REED**
265, Kansas City, MO
- 4—**RUFUS R. JONES**
285, Amarillo, TX
- 5—**KEVIN THE MAGNIFICENT**
275, Oakland, CA
- 6—**AIKO SATO**
230, Tokyo
- 7—**MIKE GEORGE**
265, St. Joe, MO
- 8—**DIAMOND TIMOTHY FLOWERS**
245, Fire Island, NY
- 9—**ART CREWS**
250, Merriam, KS
- 10—**HARLEY RACE**
253, Kansas City, MO

Analysis: Bruiser Brody and Harley Race were locked in a bitter feud, but Race recently debuted in the WWF. We drop him down to number 10 this issue since he still holds the Missouri title as of press time, and has yet to

pass the time period limit for required defense. But what will happen to that belt should Race remain in the WWF? ... Look for **Kevin "The Magnificent" Kelly** to get tripped up in this region. The cocky youngster is already talking about title shots against **Ric Flair**. Let's see him first try and tackle an opponent like **Butch Reed** ... **Diamond Timothy Flowers** now teaming with **Art Crews**, and the duo are known as **The Dream Team**; they are managed by **Slick**.

Mouth of the Month. Peeved Paula Kalkstein, writing from Marco Island, Florida, wonders what the Most Hated category really stands for.

I mean, every time I've seen Randy Savage, the guy has gotten a standing ovation. Fans love him in Florida and I understand he gets the same reception across the country. I've also heard Ric Flair cheered, as well as Gorgeous Jim Garvin, and Rick Rude. I must conclude, therefore, that these men are not disliked at all. Yet, they are included in your Most Hated category. Granted, I am a simple girl who may not understand the intricate technological formulas that go into the formation of your ratings. Perhaps you can explain this to me. I thank you.

Okay, Paula. No need to be smug. Here's the explanation. The Most Hated category shouldn't be looked upon as a venom meter. It's more a barometer of the fan reaction toward a given wrestler who is classified as a rulebreaker. Those cheers among the boos you hear for Savage, Rude, Garvin, and Flair do not necessarily mean they are well-liked. The noise is an indication of the excited tension the fans feel by their appearance. For instance, **Tony Garea** is a nice enough guy, but who would fans rather see wrestle **Hulk Hogan**? Garea or Savage? Most Hated might be better off labeled as Loudest Fan Reaction For A Rulebreaker. That would explain the cacophonous reception that **Savage**, **Lex Luger**, **Stan Hansen**, and **Bruiser Brody**—all confirmed, died-in-the-wool rulebusters—often receive. We hope this layman's explanation will clear up any misunderstanding you were having, Paula.

The address for mail: We're lonely, so please—give us your analysis of our analysis. The address for your cards and letters is "Ratings Analysis" c/o Sports Review Wrestling; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. □

OFF WRESTLIN

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board.



Hulk Hogan

TOP 10

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
NWA World champion
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**
WWF World champion
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**STAN HANSEN**
AWA World champion
322, Borger, TX
- 4—**MAGNUM T.A.**
U.S. champion
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 5—**RANDY SAVAGE**
Intercontinental champion
245, Sarasota, FL
- 6—**RICK RUDE**
World Class champion
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 7—**KERRY VON ERICH**
No. 1 contender: World Class title
260, Denton, TX
- 8—**DUSTY RHODES**
No. 1 contender: National title
302, Austin, TX
- 9—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
National champion
235, San Antonio, TX
- 10—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
North American champion
280, Glens Falls, NY

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
No. 1 contenders to NWA World tag team title
Combined weight: 567 pounds
- 2—**THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
WWF World tag team champions
Combined weight: 461 pounds
- 3—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 472 pounds
- 4—**SCOTT HALL & CURT HENNIG**
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 525 pounds
- 5—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 453 pounds
- 6—**THE FANTASTICS**
UWF tag team champions
Combined weight: 511 pounds
- 7—**GREG VALENTINE & BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
Combined weight: 511 pounds
- 8—**THE FABULOUS ONES**
No. 1 contenders to UWF tag team title
Combined weight: 499 pounds
- 9—**IRON SHEIK & NIKOLAI VOLKOFF**
No. 3 contenders to WWF tag team title
Combined weight: 607 pounds
- 10—**MAGNUM T.A. & DUSTY RHODES**
No. 3 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 547 pounds

NWA, AWA, and WWF ratings, in addition to the regional ratings from around the country, are based on the official current position of challengers to the top title in each category. (Certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings). Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and mail that comes to our offices.

NWA

World Champion:

RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**RICK MORTON**
228, Memphis, TN
- 4—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 5—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 6—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 7—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 8—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 9—**LEX LUGAR**
280, Chicago, IL
- 10—**WAHOO McDANIEL**
260, Midland, TX

AWA

World Champion:

STAN HANSEN

322, Borger, TX

- 1—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
- 2—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 3—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 4—**LARRY ZBYSKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 5—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 6—**NORD THE BARBARIAN**
316, Bozeman, MT
- 7—**SCOTT HALL**
290, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—**BORIS ZUKHOV**
254, Leningrad, Russia
- 9—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE**
271, Minneapolis, MN
- 10—**COL. DeBEERS**
248, Cape Town, South Africa

WWF

World Champion:

HULK HOGAN

302, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 2—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 3—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HA
- 4—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX
- 5—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 6—**JUNKYARD DOG**
260, New Orleans, LA
- 7—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ
- 8—**TERRY FUNK**
247, Amarillo, TX
- 9—**JOHN STUDD**
364, Washington, DC
- 10—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
303, New York, NY

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

- 1—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 5—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 6—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 7—**SHASKA WHATLEY**
238, El Paso, TX
- 8—**JIMMY VALIANT**
251, New York, NY
- 9—**MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX
- 10—**HECTOR GUERRERO**
231, Juarez, Mexico

CIAL G RATINGS

WORLD CLASS

- 1—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—**BRIAN ADIDAS**
238, Denton, TX
- 3—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 4—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
- 5—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 6—**LANCE VON ERICH**
260, Dallas, TX
- 7—**CHRIS ADAMS**
230, Stratford, England
- 8—**THE MISSING LINK**
273, parts unknown
- 9—**KABUKI**
252, Singapore
- 10—**ICEMAN PARSONS**
242, St. Louis, MO

UWF

- 1—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 2—**KORTSIA KORCHENKO**
286, Russia
- 3—**BUZZ SAWYER**
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 4—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 5—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Tulsa, OK
- 6—**KOKO B. WARE**
241, Memphis, TN
- 7—**CHAVO GUERRERO**
237, Juarez, Mexico
- 8—**DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL
- 9—**BRETT SAWYER**
242, St. Petersburg, FL
- 10—**TARRAS BULBA**
237, Outer Mongolia

FLORIDA

- 1—**LEX LUGAR**
280, Chicago, IL
- 2—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 3—**TYREE PRIDE**
231, Haiti
- 4—**KENDALL WINDHAM**
220, Sweetwater, TX
- 5—**KENDO NAGASAKI**
248, Singapore
- 6—**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**
310, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—**BOB ROOP**
223, Tampa, FL
- 8—**THE CUBAN ASSASSIN**
236, Cuba
- 9—**RON BASS**
265, Tampa, TX
- 10—**MIKE GRAHAM**
229, Tampa, FL

MID-SOUTHERN

- 1—**BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia
- 2—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 3—**DUTCH MANTEL**
242, Bucksnorth, TN
- 4—**BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
- 5—**JOS LeDUC**
280, Godbout, Quebec
- 6—**RIP ROGERS**
238, Atlanta, GA
- 7—**BILLY TRAVIS**
225, Lexington, KY
- 8—**ABDUL KHADAFY**
265, Libya
- 9—**PAUL DIAMOND**
230, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 10—**FRANK MORELL**
252, Nashville, TN

CONTINENTAL

- 1—**WENDELL COOLEY**
238, Memphis, TN
- 2—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
- 3—**EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**
227, South Wales
- 4—**JERRY STUBBS**
235, Pensacola, FL
- 5—**THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
- 6—**MR. WRESTLING II**
247, Atlanta, GA
- 7—**TOMMY RICH**
232, Hendersonville, TN
- 8—**ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 9—**TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
- 10—**JIMMY GOLDEN**
234, Montgomery, AL

NORTHWEST

- 1—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
245, Portland, OR
- 2—**BOBBY JAGGERS**
265, Dunlap, KS
- 3—**RIP OLIVER**
245, Tampa, FL
- 4—**THE ASSASSIN**
249, parts unknown
- 5—**BRADY BOONE**
236, Charlotte, NC
- 6—**MIKE MILLER**
260, Memphis, TN
- 7—**SCOTT DORING**
255, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—**MOONDOG MORETTI**
245, Boise, ID
- 9—**COCOA SAMOA**
239, Samoa
- 10—**THE ASSASSIN**
240, parts unknown

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 3—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 4—**MAGNUM T.A.**
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 5—**KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 6—**RICK MORTON**
228, Memphis, TN
- 7—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 8—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 9—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 10—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Mission, TX

MOST HATED

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—**STAN HANSEN**
322, Borger, TX
- 4—**KING KONG BUNDY**
446, Atlantic City, NJ
- 5—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 6—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
276, Moscow, Russia
- 7—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 8—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 9—**SHASKA WHATLEY**
238, El Paso, TX
- 10—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA

For period ended May 13, 1986

Kerry & Lance Von Erich & Steve Simpson Win The Six-Man Title . . .



Buddy Roberts leaps off the tum buckles with an elbowsmash against Steve Simpson (far left), who would ultimately assume the advantage (left) and play a major role in the victory. Simpson is surrounded by Von Erichs—Mike, Lance, Kerry, Kevin, and young Chris—in the winners' dressing room.

AND SEND THE FREEBIRDS FLYING!

Photos by Buddy Myers

After being shot down off their perch, The Freebirds announced the signing of a lucrative contract with the UWF and quickly flew the coop. Was a non-Von Erich most responsible for their departure?

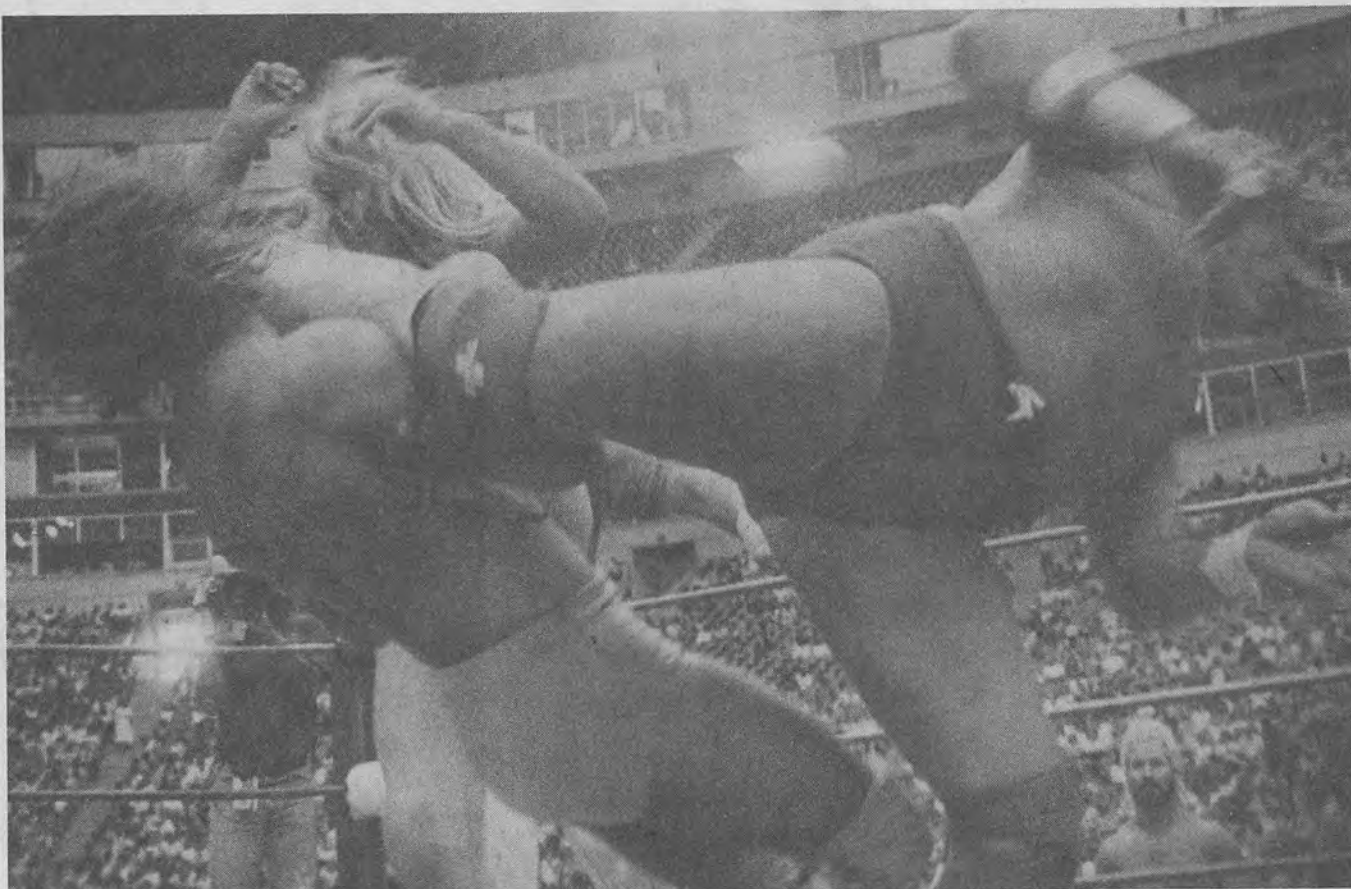
IT WAS, AFTER ALL, the David Von Erich Memorial Parade Of Champions, so it seemed only fitting that Kerry and Lance Von Erich and Steve Simpson would steal the show. But wait a minute! Steve Simpson? First of all, who is Steve Simpson, and second, what was he doing wrestling with Kerry and Lance Von Erich for the World Class six-man tag team title?

To answer the first question, Simpson is a rookie from South Africa who got his start in the Pacific Northwest. He was introduced to the World Class by Lance Von Erich, a former Pacific

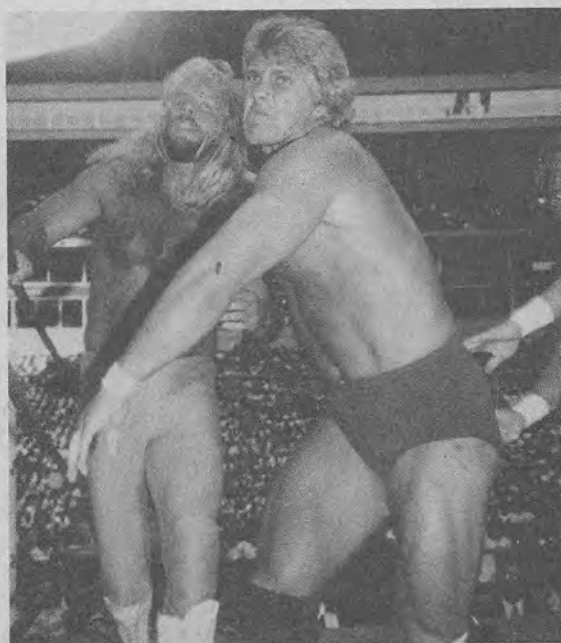
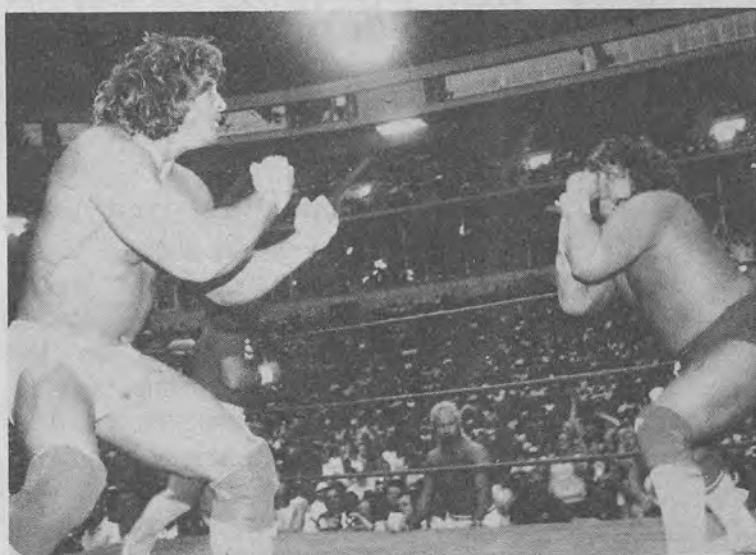
Northwest wrestler, and has quickly made a name for himself in the Texas area.

If there were any doubters left in the crowd of 24,121 at Texas Stadium, they were quickly silenced early in the card. That was when Kabuki was to take on four wrestlers, one after the other, attempting to pin them all. Kabuki had little trouble with the first two, Mark Youngblood and Jerry Allen, before running into a roadblock named Steve Simpson. Simpson pinned Kabuki, whose evening came to a premature halt.

Simpson would make an unexpected



Terry Gordy hits Simpson with devastating superkick (above). Dukes raised, Kerry and Gordy approach each other cautiously (below). Lance sends Michael Hayes into Von Erich territory (right).



curtain call later in the show. Kevin Von Erich had reinjured the right shoulder, which had been bothering him for years, and a few hours prior to the six-man elimination lumberjack strap match, chose to bow out. So Simpson joined Kerry and Lance to take on The Fabulous Freebirds.

"I really had mixed emotions," confessed Simpson. "I felt bad for Kevin, but on the other hand, I welcomed the

chance to wrestle in such an important match. The fact that we won made it even better, although it would have been perfect if I could have made it to the end."

In the end, Lance Von Erich claw-pinned Buddy Roberts, the first time he ever did this, to not only win the six-man tag team title, but also send The Freebirds out of town. Immediately after the match, The Freebirds an-

nounced that they were leaving the World Class to join the UWF. Many, including the Von Erichs, felt that The Freebirds had left because they lost the title, but this wasn't true, according to Michael Hayes.

"The UWF has signed us to a contract that will make us the highest paid wrestlers ever to appear in that area," claimed Hayes. "We will finally get the

(Continued on page 52)

The Midnight Rockers:

ROCK 'N' ROLL RIPOFFS OR THE REAL THING?

Photos by Terrance Machalek

The Midnight Rockers—Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels.

With so many names to choose from, wrestling fans have no choice but to look Marty Jannetty and Sean Michaels square in the eyes and ask the inevitable question: Are you fellas off your Midnight Rockers?

ON AWA ALL-STAR Wrestling, announcer Greg Gagne, who should have known better, introduced the team of Marty Jannetty and Sean Michaels as "that exciting tandem, The Midnight Express, er, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, I mean *The Midnight Rockers*." The next sound you hear will be that of Greg Gagne blushing.

Sean Michaels lives in downtown Minneapolis, in a small studio walkup, across the hall from an apartment that Prince used to rent. Michaels ran into the reclusive rock star only once, as they passed each other on the stairs. "He was with two girls and a guy," Michaels recalls. "He smiled and said hello. Very quiet.

Seemed like a nice enough guy." Michaels doesn't claim the inspiration for The Midnight Rockers came from his close proximity to Prince. *That*, he says, was Jannetty's idea.

The rain bounced off the lake, churning the surface into a rumpled bedsheet. Marty Jannetty's girlfriend glanced up from her *Redbook* and called out to the condominium's owner. "Marty," the pretty brunette cried. "Marty come quick. I think the lake is going to overflow."

Jannetty left his aerobicycle and hurried up the stairs. He stared out the picture window as the waters teased the shoreline. What sold him on the condo in the first place was the layout—only 40 feet from backdoor to dock. As he watched the rain fall in buckets, Marty Jannetty braced for the worst and wondered what had happened to his judgment.

The rain stopped an hour later; the house would stand for another storm. Jannetty and the brunette sat drinking coffee on the couch. "I don't think it's backfiring," he said. "The Midnight Rockers is a good idea. We just hit at slightly the wrong time."

One must wonder if these two youngsters can ever remove themselves from under the burden their names impose. *Midnight Rockers*. Excuse me, but can you get me Jim Cornette's autograph? We think he's hysterical. Sorry, pal, but that's *The Midnight Express*. We're *The Midnight Rockers*. Oh. Well you don't have to get snotty about it.

You guys are great, just great. And I love when you took the title from the Koloffs. Oh, we'll be talking about that one for years. No, no, no. You have us confused with *The Rock 'n' Roll Express*. They won the title, not us.

"You need more than talent in this sport," Jannetty explains. He shifts uneasily in the couch. "I was wrestling in the Central



Michaels executes a slick reversal, completely baffling The Alaskan (above). Michaels, along with Jannetty, also tries to work powermoves such as the bodyslam into his repertoire (below). The Midnight Rockers consider themselves a cross between The Midnight Express and The Rock 'n' Roll Express.



States for over two years and I gained some solid experience. But I needed more. That's why I moved to the AWA.

"Sean and I hit it off right away. When we discussed tagging together, we discovered that we had a lot in common, in and out of the ring. We both liked the way Rick Morton and Robert Gibson handled themselves. I'm not just talking ring skills either. I'm talking style. Character. Those two have a special quality about them.

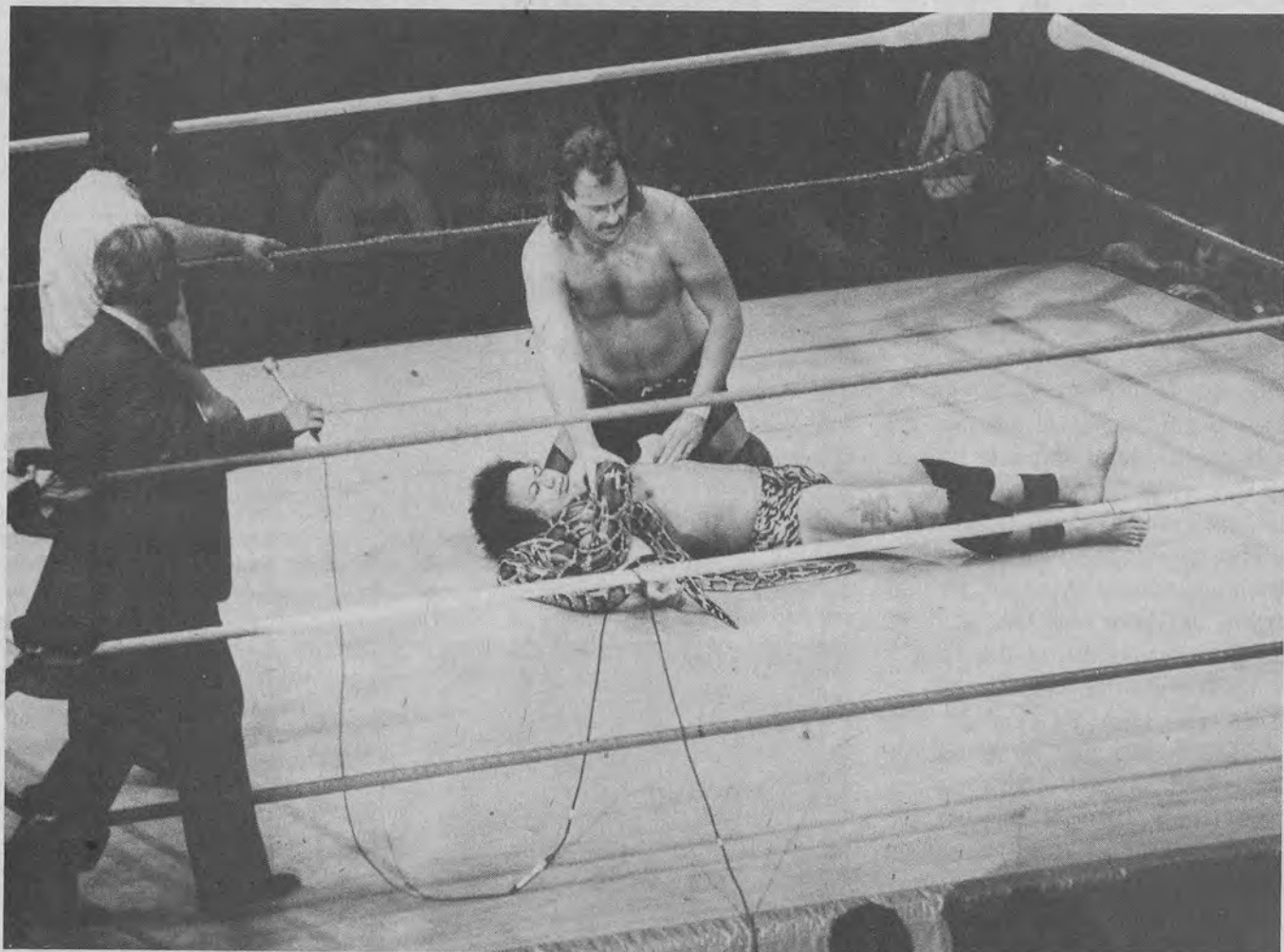
"We also admired The Midnight Express. Condrey and Eaton are two tough warriors. And we were also influenced by the state of tag team wrestling today. Every successful team has a name to identify with. The *Fabulous Ones*. The *Fantastics*. The *Road Warriors*.

"So why not us? Why not The Midnight Rockers? I'm not ashamed of the name. And the fans are catching on. You see,

(Continued on page 65)

Poisonous Snake!

JAKE ROBERTS *SLITHERS*



Photos by David Fitzgerald

RICK STEAMBOAT HAD done his wrestling for the night and the match hadn't even started. When Jake "The Snake" Roberts attacked Steamboat and put him in a headlock, the entire crowd and a nationwide television audience knew that the deadly DDT was on its way. Roberts fell backward and Steamboat's head went

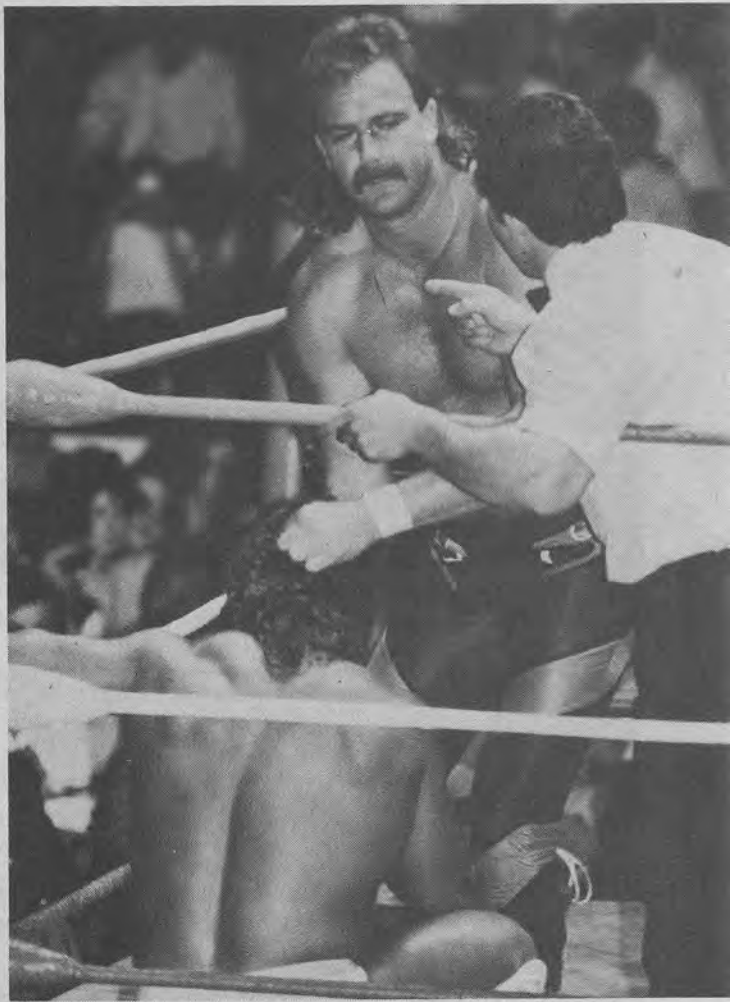
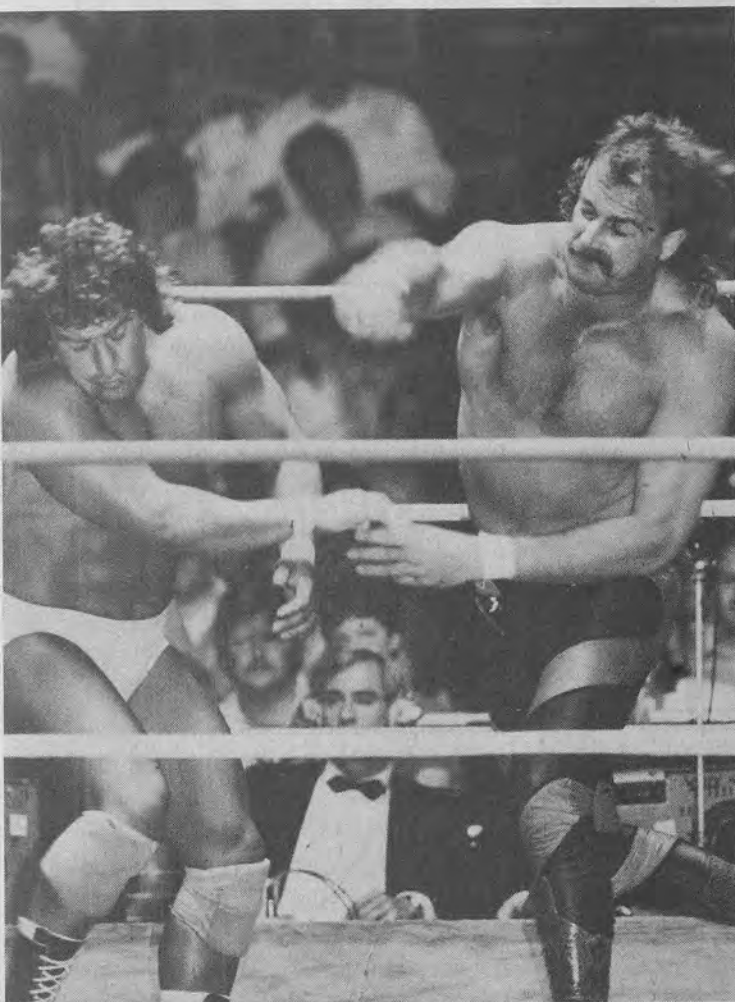
smashing into the hard concrete floor, rendering him unconscious and nearly shattering his cranium. But the worst was yet to come. Damien was about to arrive on the scene.

Everybody knew what was in that bag at ringside, although the fans had been hoping that Steamboat would win the match so Roberts wouldn't be in a

position to use its contents. For inside this bag was horror, every man's nightmare, about to be unleashed. Roberts reached inside the bag, muttered a few words, and took out a six-foot snake. A boa constrictor. The most dangerous non-poisonous snake known to man in the hands of the most dangerous poisonous snake posing as a man.

The most recent challenger to the WWF title is dangerous enough on his own. Add Damien, his deadly boa constrictor, and Jake "The Snake" Roberts has become the most feared wrestler in the country

TO THE TOP OF THE WWF



Jake "The Snake" Roberts turns his boa loose on Siva Afi (opposite page). He would later do the same to Rick Steamboat. Roberts is tough enough to intimidate an opponent on his own. Jake staggers Scott McGhee with a right (above left) and receives a warning for pulling Scott's hair (above right).

Steamboat was unconscious and therefore unaware of what was going on. But was that his fortune or misfortune? Roberts wrapped the snake around Steamboat's limp body and then stuck the serpent inside Steamboat's mouth. This was the most horrible deed of all. The crowd gasped and Steamboat's wife, sitting at ringside, nearly fainted. Jake Roberts had added a new act to his slithery repertoire of terror.

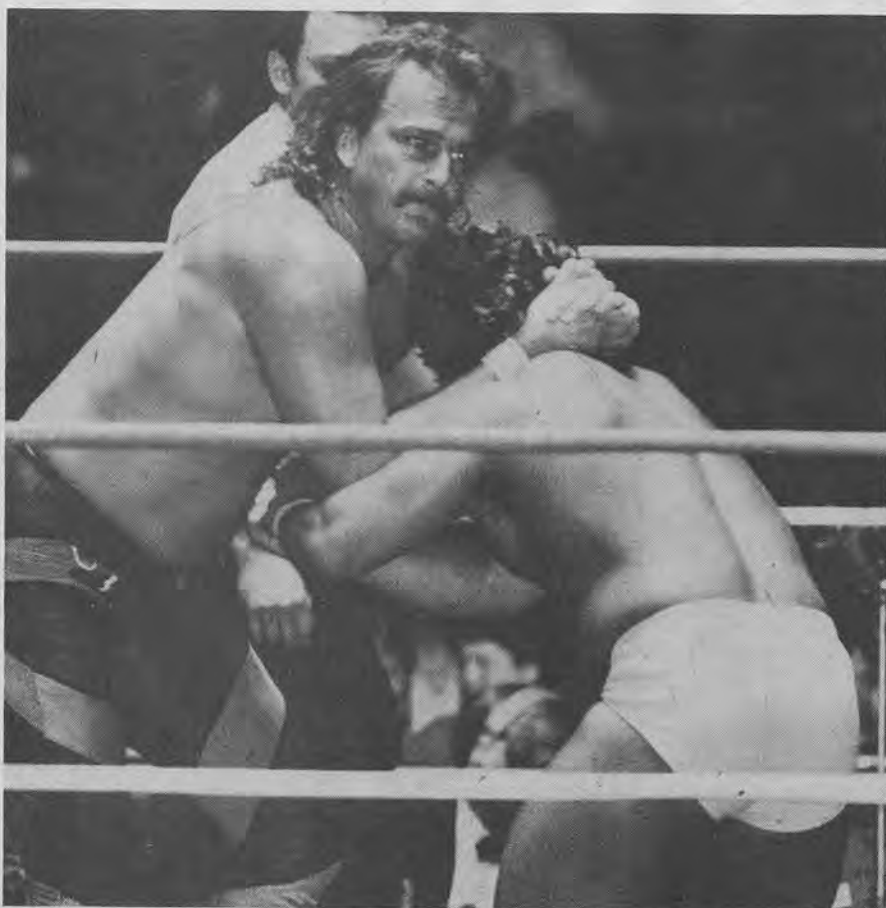
It takes courage to step into the ring. Many wrestlers possess deadly

moves that can cripple an opponent. When an individual steps into the ring, he knows that injury is likely and death is a possibility. The financial rewards can be substantial when a wrestler reaches the top of his field, but the cost can be great. And when one steps into the ring with Jake Roberts, add a snake to the price.

Apparently, there are no reptilian rules of wrestling. There's something in there about bringing foreign objects into the ring, but is a snake a foreign object? The rules simply don't ban

pets. To this point, Jake Roberts has yet to be even warned about bringing the slithery beast into the ring.

"That's the whole idea, though," said an anonymous WWF official. "The snake isn't there as a weapon. He's there to intimidate. Roberts knows that his opponents are so preoccupied with the snake, they don't have time to worry about wrestling. Now, we've all seen that Roberts is a talented wrestler, so the addition of this intimidation factor makes him virtually unbeatable."



Utilizing his powerful forearms, Roberts forces McGhee to the mat (above). Once he has his opponent dazed, The Snake tags off to his "partner" Damien (below). Is there a message for Hulk Hogan here?



So Roberts has set the trap. Most wrestlers refuse to step into the ring with Roberts, and when they do, it's obvious there's something else on their minds. Steamboat would not comment on his individual incident, mostly because he was unconscious through all of it and was later given only sketchy details. Although he would love to gain some measure of revenge against Roberts, one significant element is getting in his way. Name: Damien.

Roberts came to the WWF from the Mid-South after losing the North American title to Dick Slater, and is now after Hulk Hogan's WWF championship. Hogan is a fearless man, but whether he'll step into the ring against Roberts and snake remains to be seen. Even Indiana Jones, the unflappable hero from *Raiders Of The Lost Ark*, had an admitted aversion to snakes. Surely, Hogan will not back down from Roberts' challenge, but a

no-boia clause might have to be written into the contract.

There has also been some indication that many wrestling fans have stopped purchasing ringside seats on nights Roberts is scheduled to wrestle. Jerry Goldstein, a Madison Square Garden ringside regular for 20 years, admitted that he recently requested seats in the balcony after being informed that "The Snake" was on the card.

"There's just no way I'm going near that thing," Goldstein said, apparently referring to the snake. "What if it gets out of the bag or Roberts decides to use it on one of the fans? The guy is obviously a madman and doesn't care who he scares. Listen, I'm afraid of nothing. I ride the subways every night. I even eat my mother-in-law's meatloaf. We have these big, ugly cockroaches in our apartment all the time and it doesn't bother me. Snakes, though, man, I don't even want to talk about it."

Roberts is actually feeding upon a psychological fear. A snake will not attack unless threatened and its appearance is deceiving. Although they look slimy, a snake's skin is actually rough and scaly. But for reasons that psychoanalysts have been trying to explain for years, man has always been attracted to, but afraid of, snakes.

"We really don't know what to do about it," said the WWF official. "I guess we could ban the snake from ringside, but Roberts would probably take us to court. It's a problem. Guys just don't want to wrestle him, but Roberts has shown that he deserves to wrestle the best. We'll just have to wait and hope that he doesn't kill somebody with that snake."

Roberts' uncanny ability to communicate with Damien keeps the snake from using its awesome muscular structure to crush a helpless victim. But what if, one day, Roberts orders Damien to use his lethal power, or the snake chooses to act on its own? Many people have suggested that Hulk Hogan is the desired victim, but Roberts refuses to give any indication. And after all, can one ever tell what's going on in the mind of a snake? □

23 Tag Teams—20 Matches—Seven Hours of Excitement:

THE ROAD WARRIORS WIN THE GREATEST TAG TEAM TOURNAMENT IN HISTORY!

ON APRIL 19, 1986, The Superdome in New Orleans played host to what is being called the greatest tag team tournament in wrestling history. Nearly two dozen tag teams from around the world paired off in a tournament that took 20 matches and almost seven hours to complete. The prize: \$1 million.

The competing teams included: The Road Warriors, Wahoo McDaniel and Mark Youngblood, Bobby Jagers and Mike Miller, The Midnight Express, Nelson Royal and Sam Houston, The Batten Twins, Ivan and Nikita Koloff, Jimmy Valiant and Manny Fernandez, Baron Von Raschke and Konga the Barbarian, Terry Taylor and Steve Williams, Bill Dundee and Buddy Landell, Magnum T.A. and Ronnie Garvin, The Shepherders, Hector and Chavo Guerrero, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, The Fantastics, The Fabulous Ones, Shohei Baba and Tiger Mask, Tully Blan-



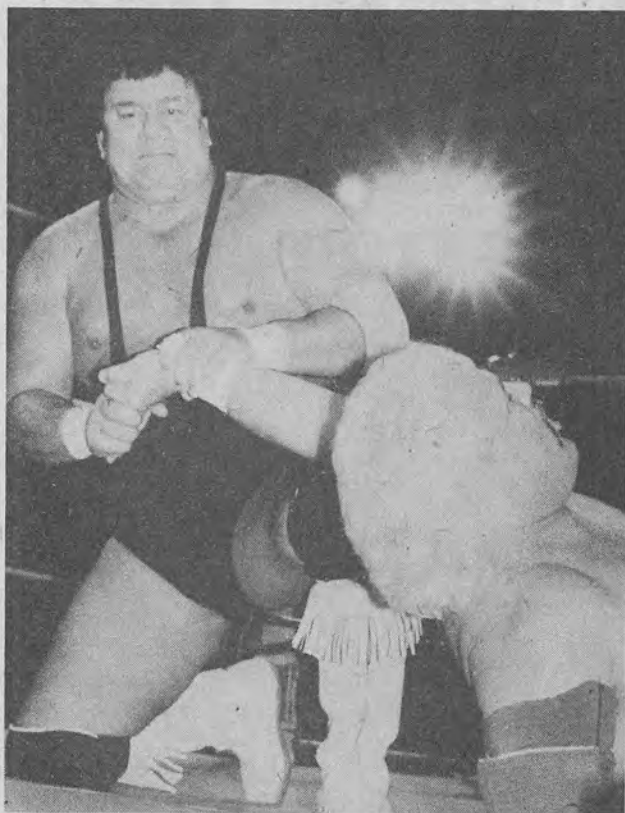
chard and Arn Anderson, Koko Ware and The Italian Stallion, Buzz Sawyer and Rick Steiner, Brett Sawyer and David Peterson, and Black Bart and Jimmy Garvin.

On the pages that follow you'll witness all the action of this incredible tournament. You'll see the unusual match pairings that took place as a result of the first round victors. You'll catch all the action of the four sensational quarterfinal bouts. And you'll have a ringside seat for the magnificent and remarkable final match: The Road Warriors vs. Magnum T.A. and Ronnie Garvin.

The million-dollar prize brought out million-dollar efforts by all the teams involved—and by *Sports Review Wrestling's* exclusive ringside photographers, Bill Apter and Peter Rene. Don't waste another second—turn the page and experience all the excitement and drama of the first annual Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial cup tag team tournament!

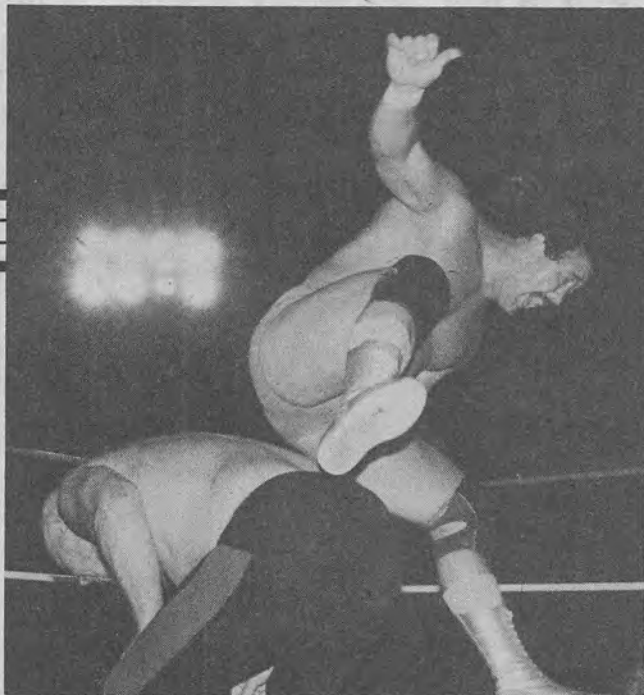
Step right up—this is your ringside seat for all the incredible action and excitement of what may very well have been THE wrestling card of 1986: The Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament!

==OPENING=ROUND==



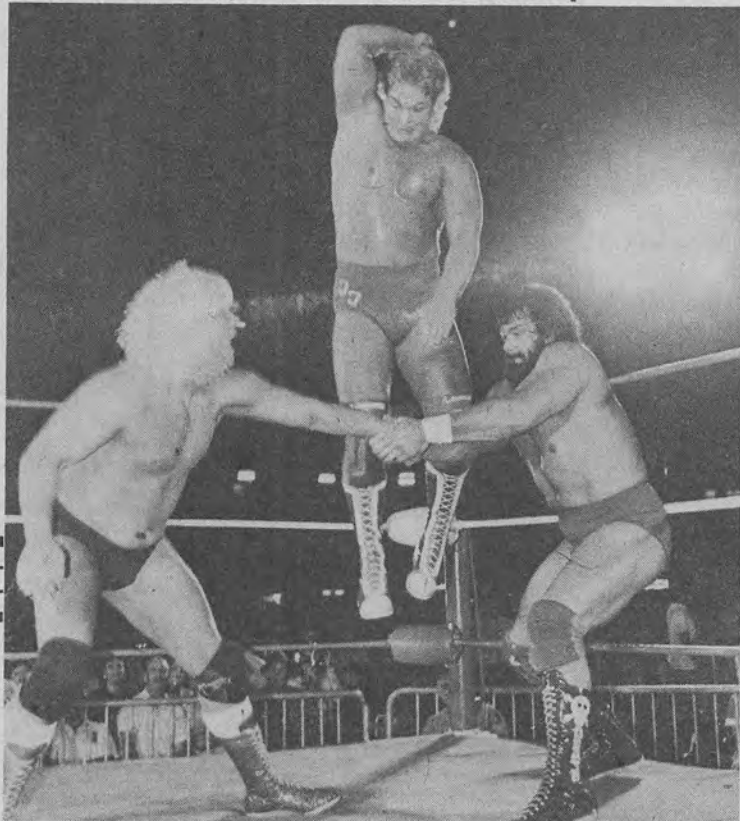
Wahoo McDaniel bends back Bobby Jagers' wrist. [Result: McDaniel & Mark Youngblood defeat Jagers & Mike Miller.]

Sam Houston executes a bulldog headlock against Brad Batten. [Result: Houston & Nelson Royal defeat The Batten Twins.]

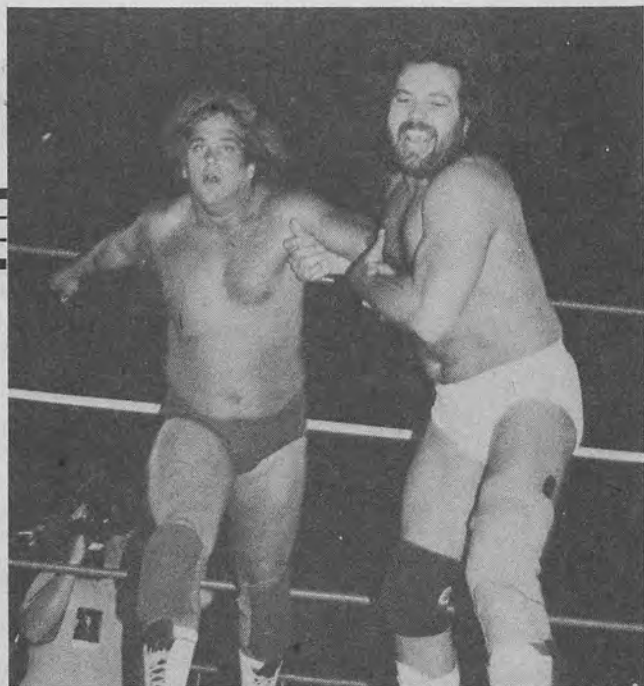


Manny "The Ragin' Bull" Fernandez avoids Baron Von Raschke's bull-like charge. [Result: Fernandez & Jimmy Valiant defeat Von Raschke & Konga the Barbarian.]

Steve Williams extends Buddy Landell's arm for a leaping Terry Taylor. [Result: Williams & Taylor defeat Landell & Bill Dundee.]

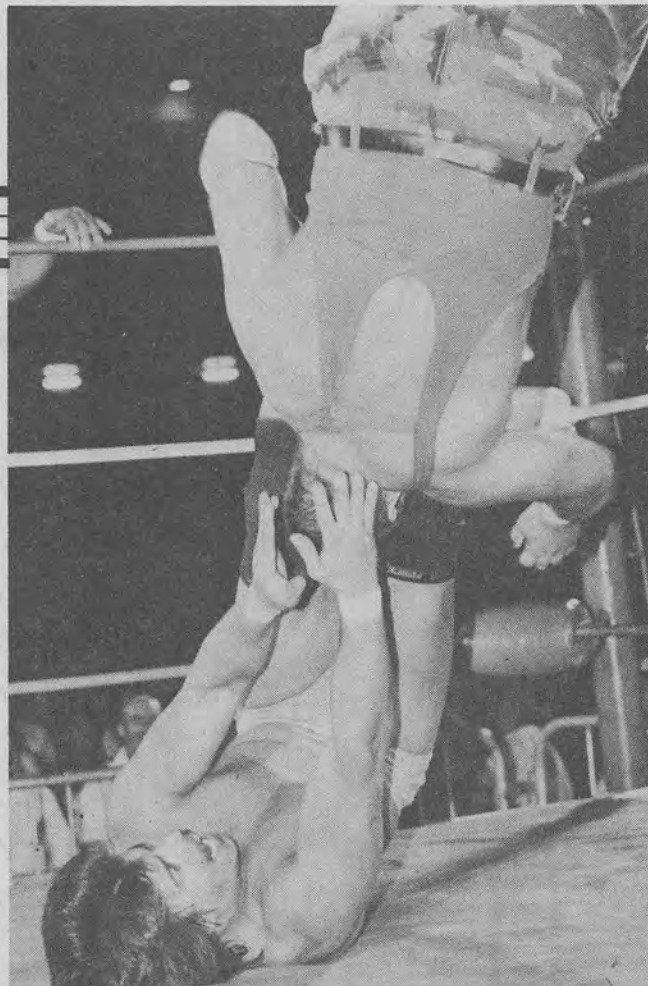
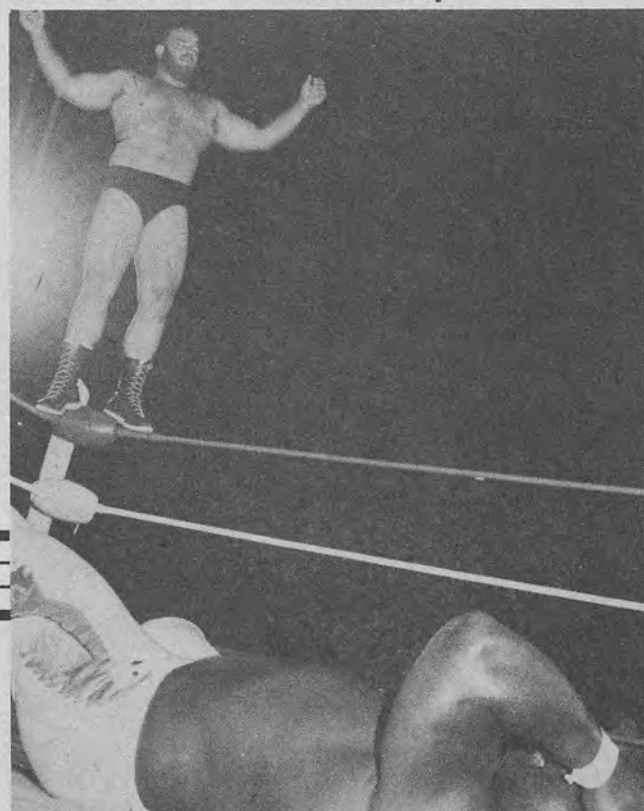


==OPENING=ROUND==

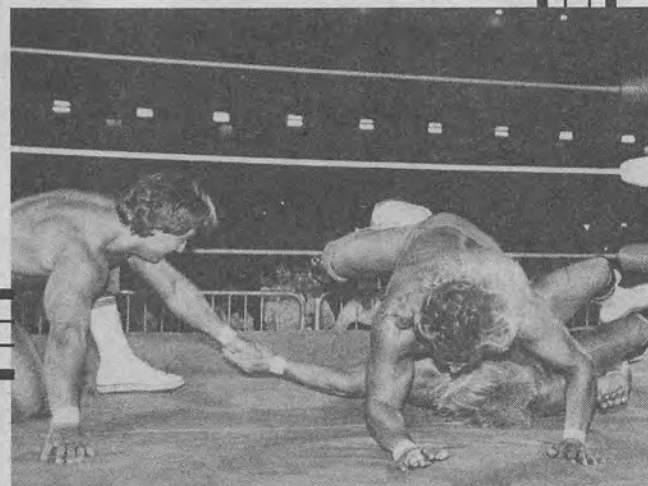


Jimmy Garvin sends Brett Sawyer in motion. [Result: Garvin & Black Bart defeat Sawyer & David Peterson.]

Buzz Sawyer zeroes in on Koko B. Ware. [Result: Sawyer & Rick Steiner defeat Ware & The Italian Stallion.]



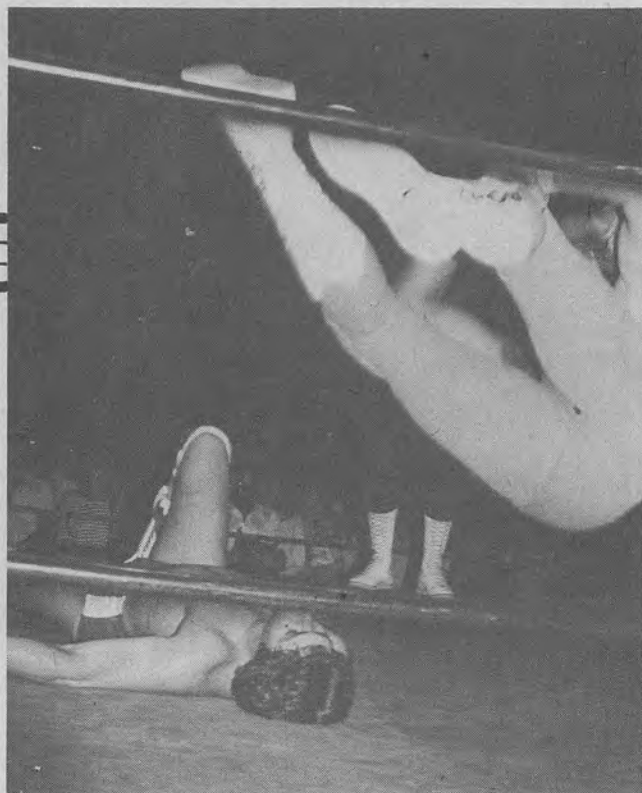
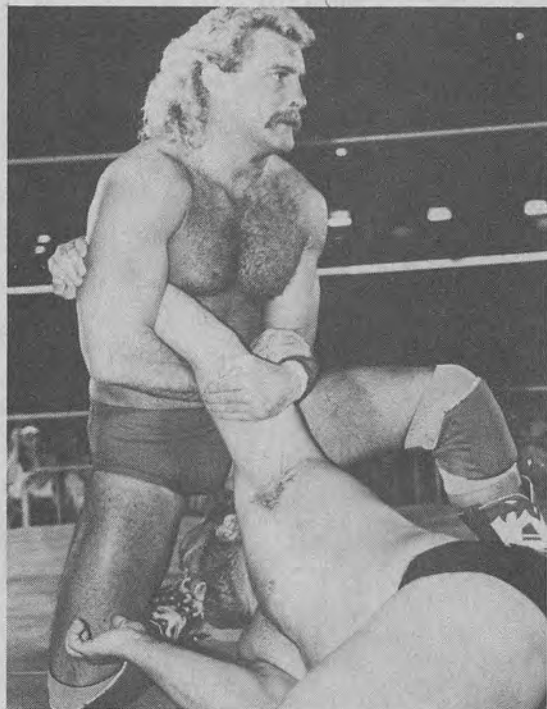
Hector Guerrero monkey-flips Luke Williams. [Result: The Shepherders defeat Hector & Chavo Guerrero.]



Tommy Rogers holds Stan Lane down as Bobby Fulton dives from the top rope. [Result: The Fantastics defeat The Fabulous Ones.]

==SECOND=ROUND==

Magnum T.A. applies an excruciating armlock against Buzz Sawyer. [Result: T.A. & Ronnie Garvin defeat Sawyer & Rick Steiner.]



Bobby Eaton lands a vicious elbowsmash against Sam Houston. [Result: The Midnight Express defeat Houston & Nelson Royal.]

Jack Victory attacks Rick Morton with a flag, leading to an unjust DQ decision against the Rock 'n' Rolls. [Result: The Shepherders defeat The Rock 'n' Roll Express.]



Road Warrior Hawk overwhelms Wahoo McDaniel in a test of strength. [Result: The Road Warriors defeat McDaniel & Mark Youngblood.]

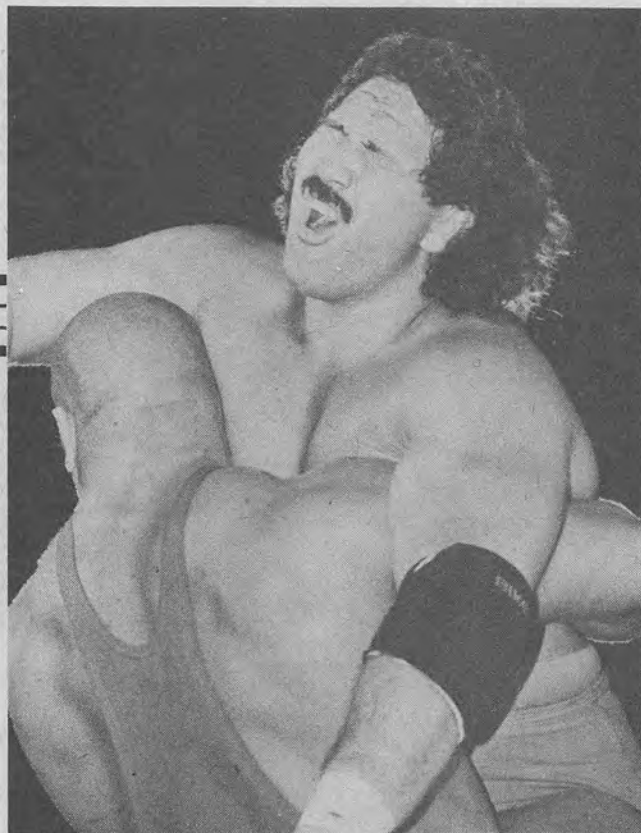


SECOND ROUND

Tiger Mask swoops in on Black Bart. [Result: Tiger Mask & Shohei "Giant" Baba defeat Bart & Jimmy Garvin.]



Rick Martel explains to referee Tommy Gilbert that his partner, Dino Bravo, had been hospitalized the night before with appendicitis and could not appear. [Result: Terry Taylor & Steve Williams advance by default.]



Nikita Koloff displays one of the sport's best bearhugs against Manny Fernandez. [Result: Nikita & Ivan Koloff defeat Fernandez & Jimmy Valiant.]

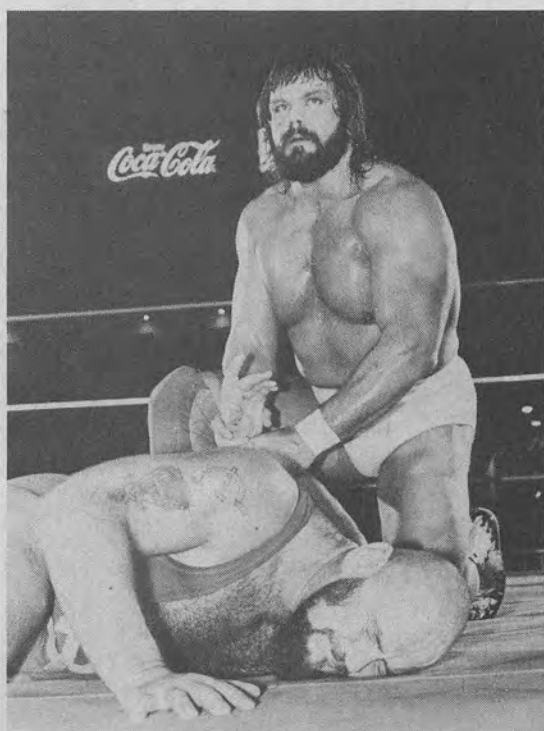
Bobby Fulton sails over the ropes, executing the sunset flip against Arn Anderson. [Result: The Fantastics defeat Arn Anderson & Tully Blanchard.]



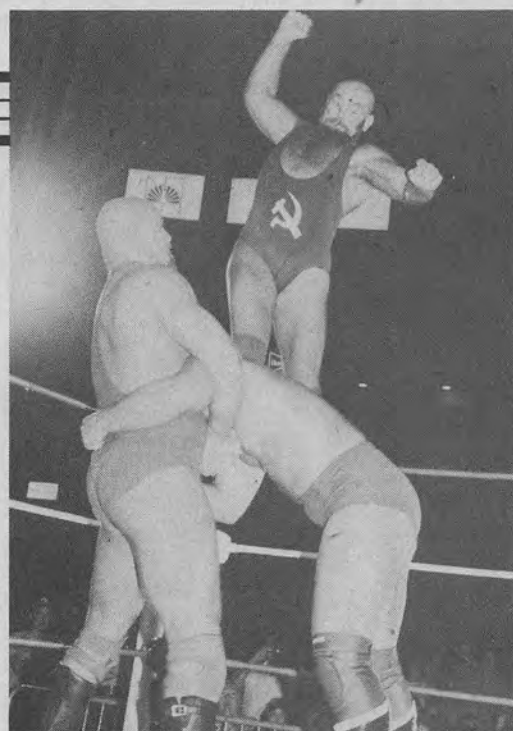
==QUARTER-FINALS==



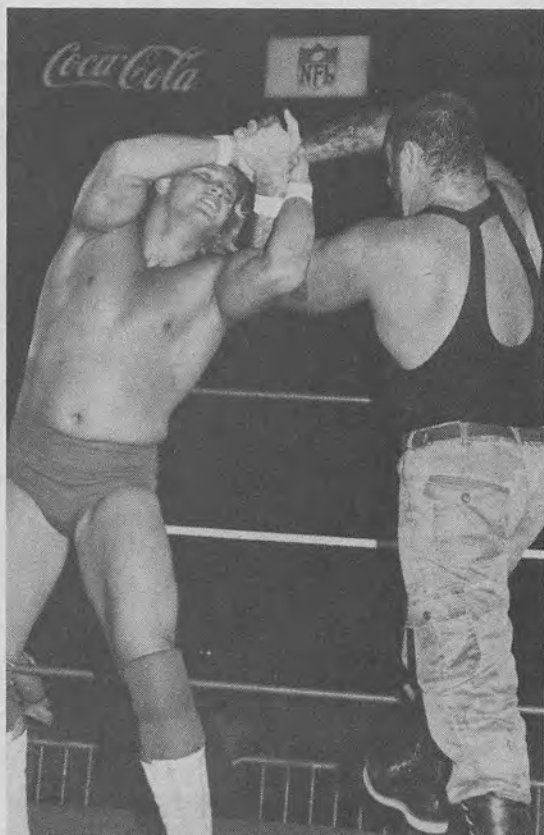
Road Warrior Animal powerslams Dennis Condrey (left). Jim Cornette hands Bobby Eaton his loaded tennis racket, which Beautiful Bobby rubs into the Warrior's face. Cornette would get his team disqualified later in the match. [Result: The Road Warriors defeat The Midnight Express.]



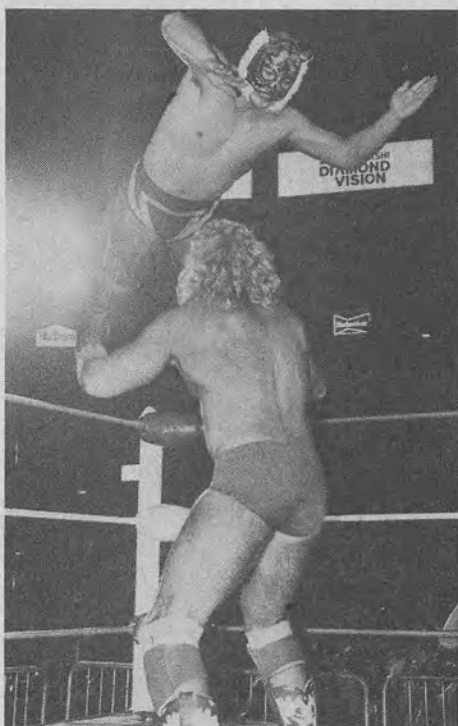
Steve Williams keeps an eye on the enemy corner as he hammerlocks Ivan Koloff (left). Nikita holds Terry Taylor as Ivan flies off the ropes (right). [Result: Time-limit draw; both team eliminated.]



==QUARTER-FINALS==

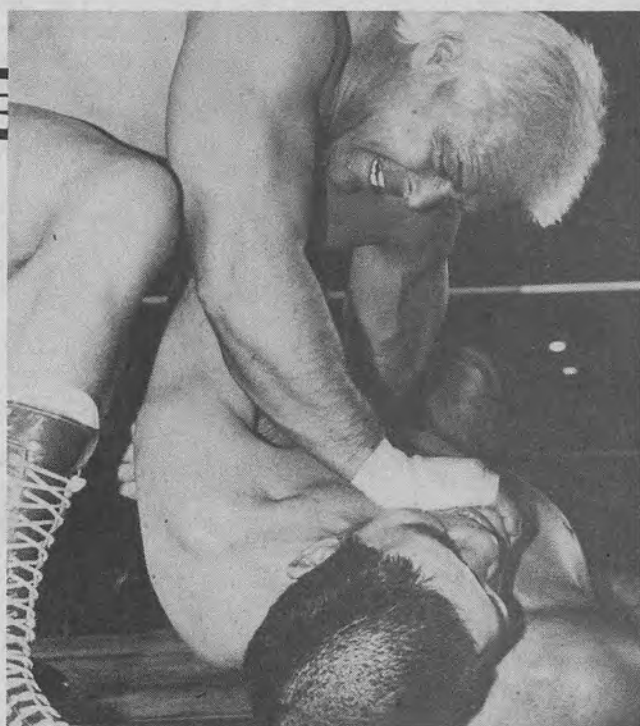


Bobby Fulton and Butch Miller go *mano-a-mano* in a test of strength (left). Fulton, spilling dangerous amounts of blood, hooks Miller's chin (above). [Result: Double DQ; both teams eliminated.]



Defying gravity, Tiger Mask flies into a stunned Magnum T.A. (left). Ronnie Garvin applies a combination chin-and-armlock against Giant Baba (right). [Result: T.A. & Garvin defeat Tiger Mask & Baba.]

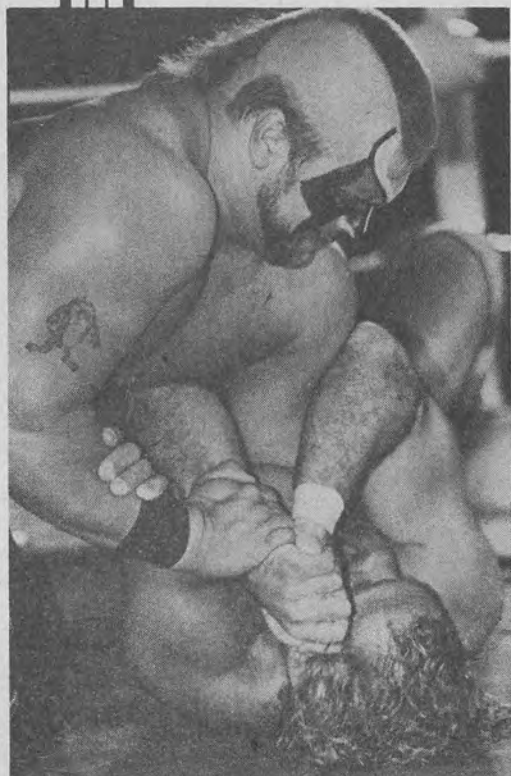
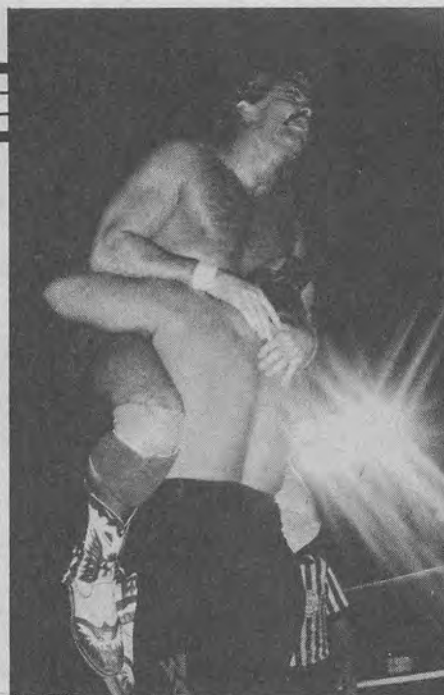
Note: Since The Road Warriors and Magnum T.A. & Ronnie Garvin were without semifinal round opponents, both teams moved directly to the finals.



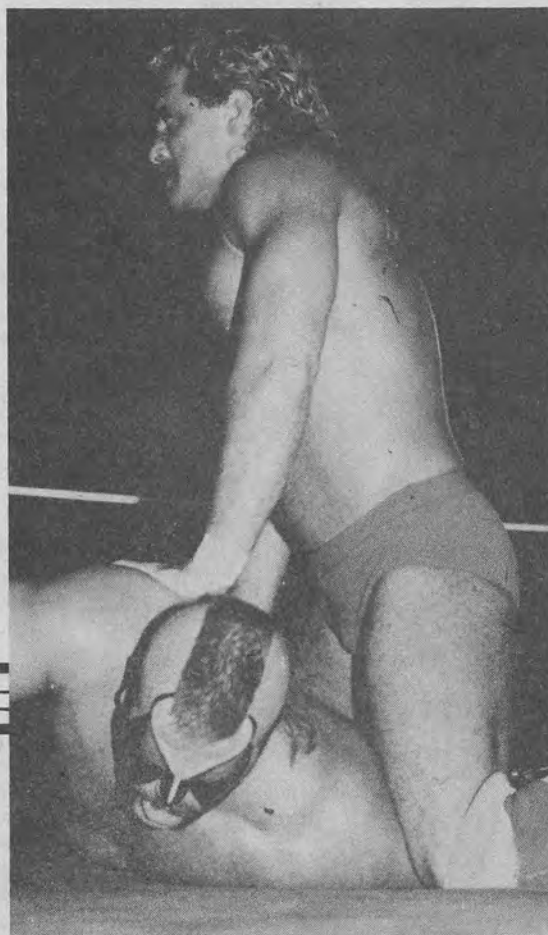
FINALS



Magnum T.A. learns early in the match that it would be futile to try to match strength with the Warriors (left). Animal traps T.A. in a rib-crunching bearhug (right).



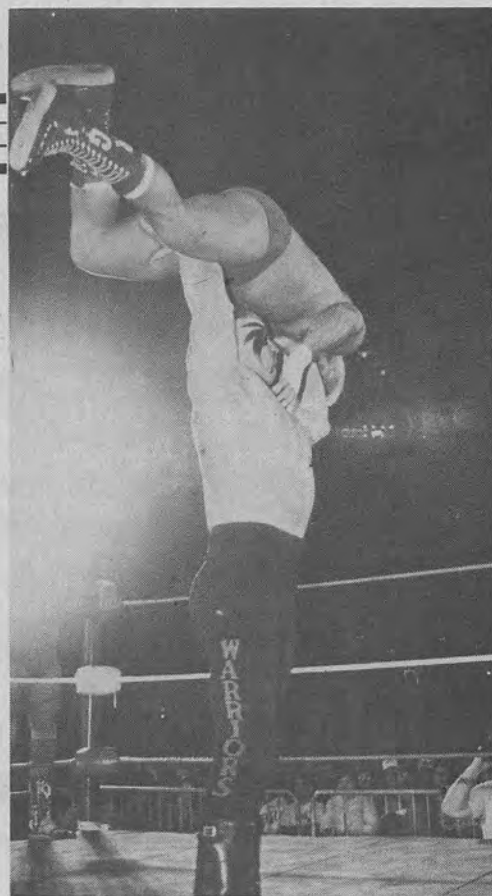
Magnum uses his right arm to try to force his way out of Animal's armbar (left). Finally, T.A. grabs the upper hand from Animal as he applies a hammerlock (right).



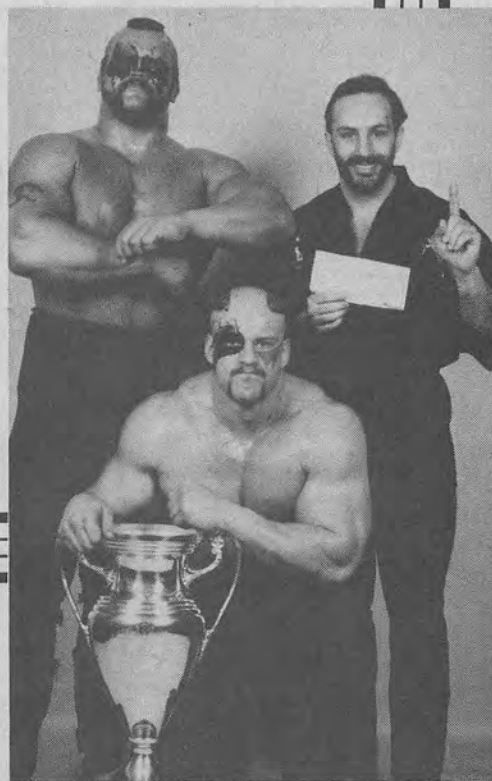
FINALS



Animal moves in from behind Magnum and weakens him severely with a chinlock (left). Hawk presses Ronnie Garvin over his head and dumps him unceremoniously to the canvas (right).



Animal adds to the effectiveness of his bearhug as he squats and bridges Magnum's back (below). The Road Warriors and their manager, Paul Ellering, pose with the Crockett Cup and a check for \$1 million (right).



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OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

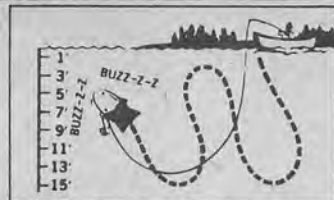
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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 6)

outside help to win matches.

I predict that before the time school lets out, the Warriors will be wearing the NWA World tag team belts. Hopefully, that will shut Jim Cornette's mouth.

Also, I loved your special sections on "Battle Of The Belts II" and "Starrcade '85." I hope to see more of the same in the future.

JASON COHEN
Islip Terrace, NY

WHAT A LIFE!

I read with great amusement your story on The Fabulous Freebirds in the June '86 edition of *Sports Review Wrestling* ("Why Do The Experts



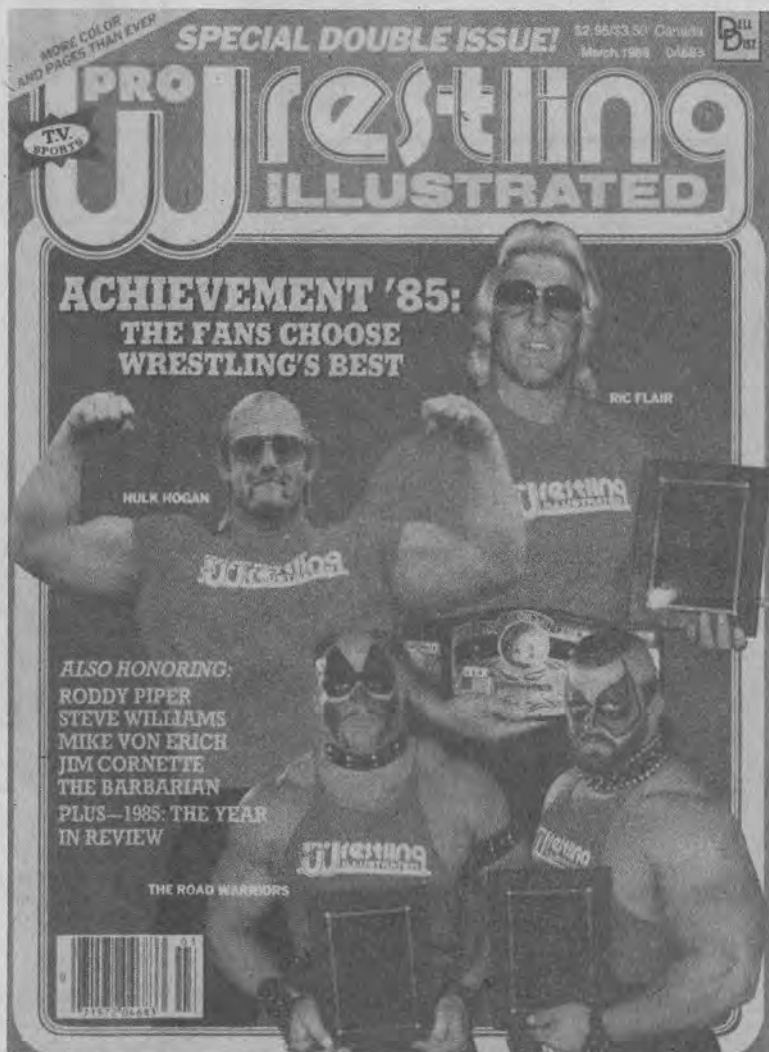
Freebirds Buddy Roberts, Terry Gordy, and Michael Hayes toast each other at a party celebrating the success of Badstreet U.S.A. It takes a certain type of fan to appreciate this trio. Susan Goldstein is just such a fan.

Continue To Underrate The Fabulous Freebirds?"). Apparently, some people just don't know how to have a good time.

This Benson Heidigger, whoever he is, supposedly has a net worth of almost half a billion dollars but amazingly, he doesn't have enough money to soundproof the walls in his house. Who cares if Michael Hayes decided to have a little fun in the streets at 4 a.m.? I'm sure that Heidigger doesn't have to get up for work in the morn-

(Continued on page 49)

A SECOND CHANCE TO CATCH "THE BIG ONE"



The year-end issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is always the most anticipated wrestling magazine of the year. And the 1985 year-end issue (March 1986 cover date) was the best one we ever published. At 92 pages, it was our biggest magazine ever and, in addition to the year-end features *PWI* readers have come to expect, it contained eight full-color pages. We have limited supplies of this newsstand sell-out, so don't be disappointed twice. Order your copy today. Only \$5.00.

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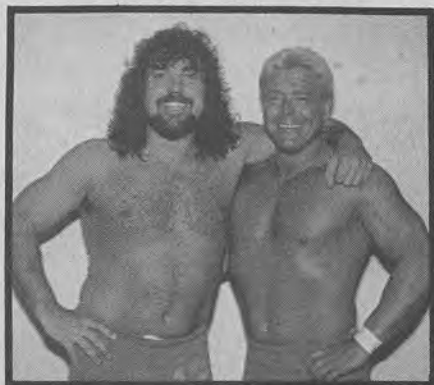
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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 47)

ing and even if he did, he'd sure have a great story to tell all the guys at the office!

Heidigger and his stuck-up neighbors should be proud to live in the same neighborhood as The Freebirds and take advantage of this great opportunity. I know that if I lived in Dallas, I'd be over at The Freebirds' house every night, partying it up and having a good time.

SUSAN GOLDSTEIN
West Palm Beach, FL

GIVE A DOLL A BREAK

I just got done reading the June 1986 edition of "Mailbag" in *Sports Review Wrestling*, and I won't stand



Baby Doll was unfairly criticized by June 1986 "Mailbag" contributor Bart Merton, according to reader Shane P. Carey, who considers Baby Doll a "classy lady."

for what I just read! Do me a favor and tell Bart Merton ("Baby Doll Should Wrestle!") to kiss off! Baby Doll has as much right to be with
(Continued on page 50)

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 49)

Dusty Rhodes as any other woman on this planet.

Baby Doll is a very classy lady and can hang around all she wants. I respect her, and I like all there is about her, especially her looks and loyalty. And no one gives you the right to judge her! Got that, jack?

So you just lay off Baby Doll.

SHANE P. CAREY

Elkhart, IN

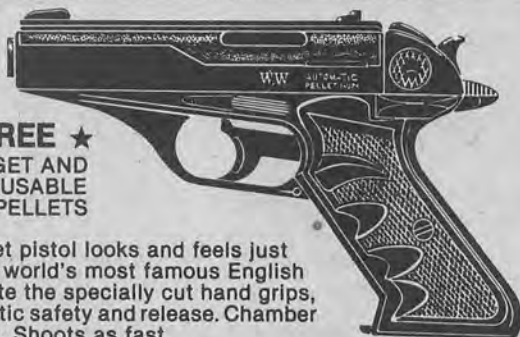
SCHIZO-KING

I couldn't believe you made Jerry Lawler your Wrestler of the Month for June 1986. Have you forgotten Lawler's behavior as Polynesian Pacific champion? I heard that even as a fan favorite Lawler was arrogant and discourteous to the fans. Wrestling in the Polynesian Pacific area he was even worse.

The honorable King had to have Buddy Wolfe interfere for him to win

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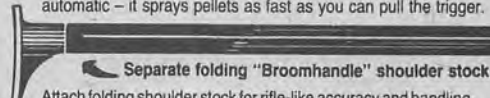


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For the manner in which he carried himself as Polynesian champion, Jerry Lawler deserves to have the crown broken over his head, in the opinion of Justin Winters.

the title from Lars Anderson. Then, when Jimmy Snuka had him in an abdominal stretch during a title match, Lawler slugged the referee and got himself disqualified. He constantly made ethnic jokes about the Polynesian people. I didn't hear him talk about the Mid-Southern title. I didn't hear him talk about his beloved Memphis fans. I hope Bill Dundee takes Lawler's crown and shoves it down his throat.

I guess there are few men in the wrestling world who stand by what they believe in. Lawler is scum, just like Jake Roberts, Pez Whatley, Jesse Barr, and Bob Roop. At least maniacs like Larry Zbyszko and Stan Hansen don't change what they believe in every month. Lawler—King of Wrestling? I hope Dundee or Snuka teach "The King" a lesson. Better yet, maybe Lawler will get a title match with Stan Hansen. Hansen will tear his head off. Take your crown and shove it, Jerry.

JUSTIN WINTERS
Oklahoma City ☐

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SIX-MAN TITLE

(Continued from page 31)



Lance applies the iron claw against Roberts, thus eliminating the last of The Freebirds—possibly for good. It was the first time Lance had ever used the claw, and it could not have come at a more opportune instant.

respect we deserve and there's absolutely no truth to the ridiculous rumors that we're trying to run away from the Von Erichs. That's a laugh! We're ready to take them on at any time."

The Freebirds certainly didn't embarrass themselves against the Von Erichs and Simpson. Michael Hayes pinned Kerry Von Erich early in the match, and The Freebirds appeared to be in total control. Simpson came back to pin Hayes, but the two remaining Freebirds double-teamed the non-Von Erich and had him in deep trouble. Gordy whipped Simpson off the ropes and executed a superkick, the move Chris Adams made famous. Roberts then moved in to punish the stunned Simpson further. The Freebirds combined to clothesline Simpson and Gordy applied the pin. It was now down to Lance Von Erich and two Freebirds, Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts.

Lance quickly eliminated Gordy by tossing him over the top rope and then went after Roberts in a grueling duel. Roberts put Lance in a headlock and

tried to turn him over for the pin, but Lance managed to escape. Then, with the two exchanging blows in the center of the ring, right-handed Lance used the opposite hand to claw Roberts and win the title.

"I knew that he was looking for me to apply the claw with my right hand and I was having a hard time getting inside," revealed Lance. "So I figured I might as well give it a shot with my left hand. I had never done it before and wasn't sure if I had the strength, but Roberts was pretty worn down so I really didn't have much of a problem. Most of the credit has to go to Steve [Simpson]. He was remarkable. The kid had never wrestled with us in a six-man and here he is taking on these guys like he's been doing it all his life. Remarkable."

Based on this performance, Simpson figures to stay in the World Class area for some time to come. □

[Editor's note: Just as this issue was going to press, World Class officials announced that since Kevin Von Erich had officially signed to wrestle The Freebirds, that he, not Steve Simpson, would be recognized as the third member of the World Class six-man championship team. Simpson was not available for comment.]

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 10)



Don Carson avenges John Tolos' hideous attack on Fred Blassie, who was the favorite of the Los Angeles fans.

time before the former NCAA champion scored a clear-cut victory and took the title ... Fan favorite Don Carson avenged his good friend Fred Blassie by taking the Americas title from John Tolos in a Roman Gladiator Death Match in Los Angeles. Tolos had blinded Blassie with toxic powder during a television interview a few weeks earlier ... Making his return to Madison Square Garden after a five-month absence, Bruno Sammartino thrilled 21,925 fans by defeating hated Texan Blackjack Mulligan in 64 seconds after a series of tremendous bodyslams. On the same card, WWF champion Pedro Morales teamed with gargantuan Gorilla Monsoon to defeat WWF tag team champions Tarzan Tyler and "Crazy" Luke Graham by disqualification ... Nick Bockwinkel came extremely close to capturing Verne Gagne's AWA title in Milwaukee. Bockwinkel accidentally knocked out the referee while trying to escape Gagne's sleeperhold. When Gagne went to the referee's aid, Bockwinkel lifted the champion in the air and threw him over the top rope. After slamming Gagne's head into the metal ringpost, Bockwinkel pushed

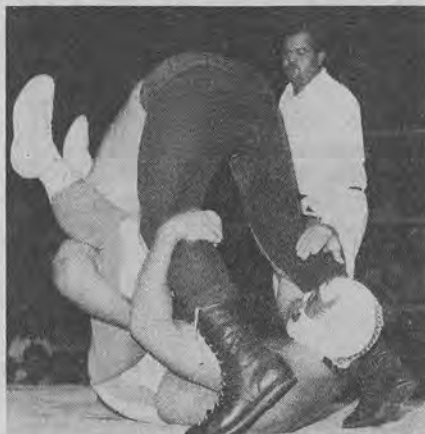


Gene Anderson twists Tim "Mr. Wrestling" Woods' arm as the Andersons take the NWA tag team belts from Woods and Dino Bravo.

Gagne back into the ring, revived the referee, and bodypressed the champion. Ringside officials immediately rushed the referee and explained what transpired while he was unconscious. The referee took the belt back from Bockwinkel and disqualified him ... Hercules Cortez, a former co-holder of the AWA tag team championship with Red Bastien, died tragically in a car accident ... Central States champion Harley Race battled to a 60-minute draw with The Stomper. The promoter, however, extended the time limit and Stomper won the belt. The NWA later reversed the decision, claiming no legal authority had been granted for such a change in the rules ... In Texas, Terry Funk and Dory Funk Sr. teamed with Eddie Graham to defeat The Infernos and their manager, J.C. Dykes ... Wahoo McDaniel was hot, retaining his American championship twice against rugged Prof. Toru Tanaka and winning a nine-man battle royal.

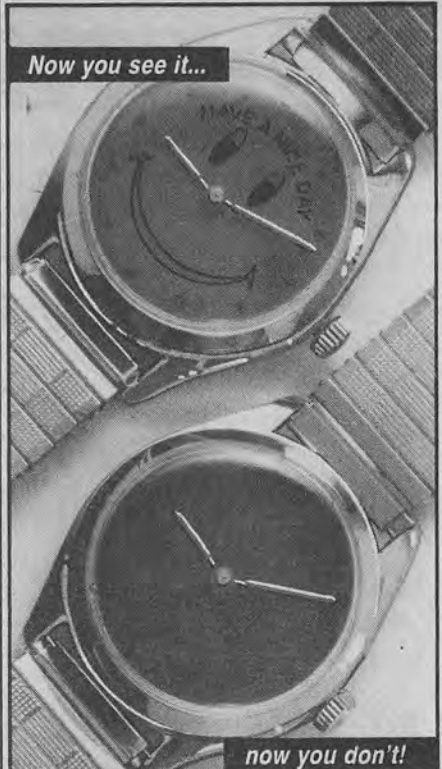
JULY - AUGUST 1976

THE ANDERSON BROTHERS regained the NWA tag team belts from Dino Bravo and Tim Woods ... Greg Valentine wrestled according to
(Continued on page 56)



Slick Dos Caras, the brother of Mil Mascaras, became a top name in Mexico.

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 55)

the rulebook for a short period of time in Florida ... Verne Gagne refereed the classic St. Louis brawl between NWA champion Terry Funk and former champion Gene Kiniski. Terry retained his laurels in a match Gagne called, "one of the greatest I've even witnessed" ... Dos Caras brother of the great Mil Mascaras, began to make a name for himself in Mexico ... WWF champion Bruno Sammartino reported he was ready to assume training following a long



After recovering from a broken neck inflicted by Stan Hansen, Bruno Sammartino announced that he was ready to resume training.

hospital stay. Sammartino's neck was broken by Stan Hansen's lariat ... Fritz Von Erich swiped The Mongolian Stomper's loaded boot and beat the rulebreaker to a bloody pulp ... Jerry Lawler and Rocky Johnson, having already tried every conventional means to solve their feud, decided to don boxing gloves and slug it out by Marquis de Queensberry rules.



Ric Flair, being monkey-flipped by Paul Jones, would earn an unusual disqualification victory over his hated rival in South Carolina.

And for five rounds the match was fought evenly and strictly by the rules. At the start of the sixth round, however, Sam Bass, Lawler's manager, gave Jerry a drink of water. Lawler held the water in his mouth until facing Johnson in the ring. The then-rulebreaker spat the water into Johnson's face and proceeded to cut him with a foreign object. The referee stopped the match in Lawler's favor and the King of Memphis was heard mumbling something about Muhammad Ali as he left the ring ... In Dothan, Alabama, Jack Brisco failed in his attempt to regain the NWA title from Terry Funk when he was counted out of the ring in the third and deciding fall ... A vicious grudge match in South Carolina saw Ric Flair defeat Paul Jones by an unusual disqualification. As the referee counted, both men began battling on the ring apron. A solid left hook by Jones knocked Flair over the ropes and back inside the ring. Before Jones could follow, however, the referee completed his count and

disqualified the fan favorite ... NWA RATINGS: 1—Terry Funk; 2—Jack Brisco; 3—Dusty Rhodes; 4—Rocky Johnson; 5—Blackjack Mulligan; 6—The Sheik; 7—Fritz Von Erich; 8—Jerry Lawler; 9—Ric Flair; 10—Paul Jones. WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Bruiser Brody; 3—Stan Hansen; 4—Ivan Putski; 5—Tor Kamata; 6—Chief Jay Strongbow; 7—Bobo Brazil; 8—Billy White Wolf; 9—Nikolai Volkoff; 10—Doug Gilbert. AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Verne Gagne; 3—Larry Hennig; 4—Peter Maivia; 5—Blackjack Lanza; 6—Bobby Duncum; 7—Greg Gagne; 8—Mad Dog Vachon; 9—Baron Von Raschke; 10—Jim Brunzell. TAG TEAMS: 1—The Andersons; 2—The Masked Executioners; 3—Bruiser & Crusher; 4—Chief Jay Strongbow & Billy White Wolf; 5—Blackjack Lanza & Bobby Heenan; 6—Bob Backlund & Steve Keirn; 7—The Valiants; 8—Goliath & Black Gordman; 9—The Mongols; 10—Bob Roop & Bob Orton Sr.

(Continued on page 58)

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 57)

JULY— AUGUST 1981

KEN PATERA CLAIMED he was the victim of prejudice after his loss to NWA World champion Dusty Rhodes. He might have had a point; the referee was Tommy Rich... After a classic brawl with Ric Flair in St. Louis, Rhodes admitted that Ric Flair was one of the few men capable of taking his NWA title... Wahoo McDaniel captured the U.S. heavy-

won "The Snake's" North American title... Dick Murdoch and Junkyard Dog won the Mid-South tag team belts from The Samoans... Andre the Giant returned from a broken ankle inflicted by Killer Khan with a victory over Sgt. Slaughter... Charlie Cook upset Dory Funk Jr. for the Florida state title... **WWF RATINGS:** 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Magnificent Muraco; 3—Greg Valentine; 4—Angelo Mosca; 5—Sgt. Slaughter; 6—Pedro Morales; 7—Pat Patterson; 8—Killer Khan; 9—Rick Martel; 10—George Steele. **NWA RATINGS:** Dusty Rhodes; 2—Wahoo McDaniel; 3—Roddy Piper; 4—Ken Patera; 5—



Wahoo McDaniel locks up Roddy Piper's leg as he outwrestles the Rowdy Scot and grabs his U.S. title. With the victory, Wahoo passed Piper in the NWA ratings.

weight championship from Roddy Piper... Tony Garea and Rick Martel captured the WWF tag team championship from Lou Albano's Moondogs in a televised bout... Jimmy Snuka teamed with his adviser, Terry Gordy, and took the Georgia tag team belts from Steve O and Ted DiBiase... Rookie Bruno Sammartino Jr. built up an impressive winning streak in Georgia... Hulk Hogan took time off from his wrestling schedule for the filming of *Rocky III*. Hogan portrayed a wrestler named "Thunderlips"... The feud between Paul Orndorff and Jake Roberts was settled at the New Orleans Superdome, where Orndorff

Dory Funk Jr.; 6—Jimmy Snuka; 7—Ivan Koloff; 8—Harley Race; 9—Tommy Rich; 10—Paul Orndorff. **AWA RATINGS:** 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Crusher; 3—Baron Von Raschke; 4—Dino Bravo; 5—Tito Santana; 6—Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie; 7—Crusher Blackwell; 8—Greg Gagne; 9—Jim Brunzell; 10—John Studd. **TAG TEAMS:** 1—The Andersons; 2—Tony Garea & Rick Martel; 3—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell; 4—The Assassins; 5—Jimmy Snuka & Terry Gordy; 6—Ivan Koloff & Chris Markoff; 7—Dick Murdoch & Junkyard Dog; 8—Jack & Jerry Brisco; 9—Mr. Fuji & Mr. Saito; 10—Tully Blanchard & Gino Hernandez.

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INQUIRING REPORTER

(Continued from page 12)

instance, really seems to have his priorities in order. Now, the guy is having problems with his brother, which bothers me, but he seems to be handling that situation pretty well. And he's loyal to his friends, he's a hard worker, and he's an honest person. Definitely, Ronnie Garvin."

Kathy Johnson, Atlanta: "I'm a strong believer in good table manners. I think they really reflect upon an individual's personality and upbringing, so I would have to go with The Kiwi Sheepherders

Marines. I'm not sure I should be saying this and I just might be thrown out of town, but I was a Marine, my father was a Marine, and I'd like my four sons to become Marines, so Sgt. Slaughter is the wrestler I'd like them to be like and emulate. Here's a guy who has pride in his country and isn't afraid to defend it, just like myself. I believe that if you have pride in your country, you have pride in yourself. Sgt. Slaughter is everything I'd want my children to be."

Dan Ross, Farmingdale, NY: "I hate snakes. I once had this dream that a person picked a snake off the floor and threw it at me. I woke up screaming my head off and I couldn't get back to sleep. Another time I remember, I was seven years old and in camp. We were having a barbeque and needed more wood for the fire, so I picked up a piece of wood and out crawled this long, orange snake. I just took off. So, if my daughter ever comes up to me and says, 'Daddy, I want a pet snake,' I think I'd have no choice but to throw her out of the house. Only kidding, of course, but let me put it this way: I'd prefer it if she wasn't a fan of Jake Roberts, and, fortunately, she isn't."



Is Sheepherder Crazy Luke Williams responsible for Kathy Johnson's three-year-old boy's sloppy eating habits?

as the wrestlers I'd least like my son to emulate. Unfortunately, he seems to be doing it already. The little guy just can't seem to keep his food on his plate or in his mouth, but he's only three. From what I've heard and read, these Kiwi Sheepherders are a disgusting sight at the dinner table. Just the thought of the grease dripping off their faces and down their arms makes me lose my appetite. It does remind me of little Peter, of course, but as I said, he's only three."

Paul Willets, Dallas: "Now, this may surprise you coming from a Texan like myself and with all this talk about Stan Hansen and Texas pride and the

Marilyn Robinson, Las Vegas: "He's not a wrestler but when I saw J.D. Costello in that pink garter belt and stockings, I knew for certain that the guy was a loser. He seems to be proud of his failures. He talks all about how he failed in college and failed in business and this is his last chance. So what does he do? He starts a tag team with a pair of losers. The guy is still dependent on his mother, never does anything for himself, and has no respect for the rules. J.D. Costello is most certainly a man I wouldn't want my children to be like. Give me Hulk Hogan any day. The man thrives on adversity and he seems to love children. There should be more wrestlers like the Hulk." □

Victory Sports Wrestling

TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)



J.D. COSTELLO

Spike and Basher, a pair of ex-cops, to form The M.O.D. (Masters of Destruction) Squad.

Costello, as might be expected, has not endeared himself to the fans or local promoters. His obnoxious, Jim Cornette-like style of managing has turned off nearly everybody in the Mid-Southern region. But recently, Costello managed to make a fool of himself, and the key ingredients were \$100,000 in cash, a pink garter belt, and a pair of stockings.

During a recent television interview, Costello offered Jerry Lawler \$100,000 to join his stable. Naturally, Lawler would have nothing to do with Costello and took this offer as a challenge. Said Lawler, "Jimmy Hart once managed me and look what he turned out to be. You're lower scum than Jimmy Hart could ever be."

Costello turned around, slapped Lawler in the face, and ran toward the ring. Lawler chased after J.D. and tore off his pants, revealing a pink garter belt and stockings. Costello then ran into the locker room, obviously embarrassed.

It didn't end there, however. Later in the night, Lawler was wrestling when The M.O.D. Squad, led by Costello, ran into the ring. Costello handed Spike a foreign object and Spike shot fire at Lawler's chest. The King briefly caught fire and later on doctors advised him that the burns were serious and he shouldn't wrestle for a short period of time.

But Lawler has never been known
(Continued on page 64)

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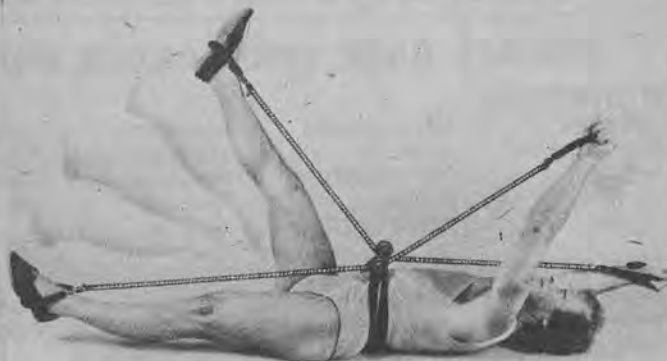
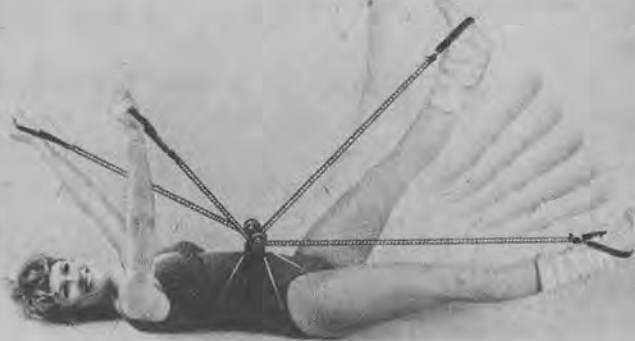
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TATTLER

(Continued from page 62)

to back down from a challenge and he isn't likely to this time, especially when that challenge is coming from J.D. Costello.

—Randy Swift

TAMPA, FL: A stolen belt, several disqualifications, and a bit of brotherly discord has resulted in Kendall Windham giving up his Florida title.

It all started when Windham defeated Bob Roop in a title match. Afterward, Roop claimed that he had actually won, grabbed the belt from the referee, and stormed out of the arena, much to the shock and dismay of Windham, officials, and the Florida fans.

They met several times in the ensuing weeks with similar results: Kendall would win, but Roop would refuse to admit defeat and keep the belt. Roop did have a point, however. At the conclusion of many of their matches, Barry Windham would run into the ring to help out his brother.

This resulted in some harsh words between the Windhams. Kendall insisted that he didn't need his brother's help and that the interference was ruining his chances of getting back the belt. Barry claimed he was standing up for the family honor and that Kendall should thank him for coming to his aid.

Finally, however, Barry and Kendall had a meeting of the minds. Kendall announced that he was giving up the Florida title due to the Roop controversy and the pressure it put on his relationship with his brother.

Florida officials then announced that the title was up for grabs and a tournament would be held in Orlando to decide a new champion. It is expected that every top wrestler from the area will be on hand to take a shot at the belt. If Roop decides to give it back, of course.

—Barry Simon □

MIDNIGHT ROCKERS

(Continued from page 33)

you can't disguise talent. A lot of wrestlers think they can hide a deficient headlock behind sunglasses and bandanas. Sean and I are not just pretty boys. We can wrestle. And once the world discovers that, they'll treat us with more respect."

Sean Michaels' apartment ap-

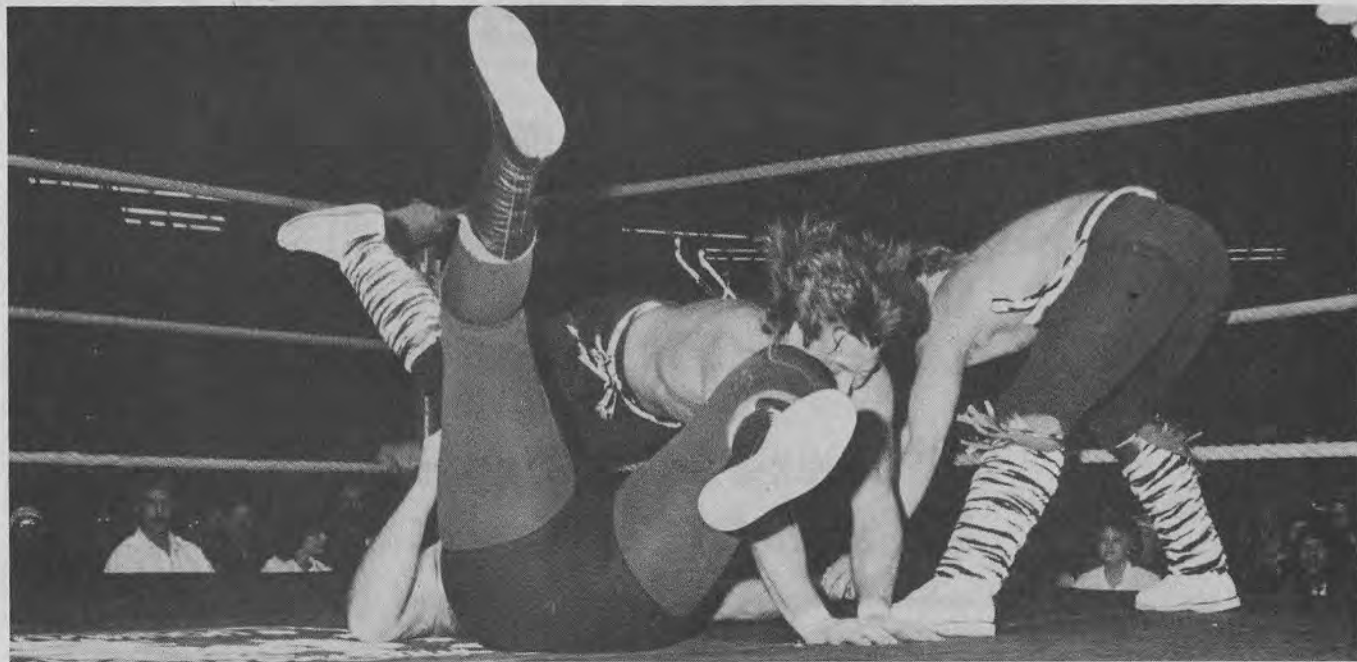
pears to have been decorated by his 16-year-old brother. In fact, Michaels looks as if he could be someone's 16-year-old brother. As he breaks into an easy grin, the face is conspicuously free of the marks and scars of his trade.

The walls are lined with posters of rock stars and models. A lava

lamp sits on a dresser. A lava lamp? "My older brother gave it to me. It's sort of strange, but I like it."

As strange as say, your name?

"Hey man, I consider myself pretty hip. When Marty suggested we call ourselves The Midnight Rockers, I didn't like the idea for



Michaels holds The Alaskan down as Jannetty dives in for the pin (above). As The Alaskan and Michaels engage in a test of strength, Jannetty sneaks in from underneath (below).



exactly the reasons everyone brings up. Everyone will confuse us with those other teams. We'll be lumped into the same category as all the other MTV teeny-bopper teams. I told Marty I wanted to team with him, but no Midnight Rockers.

"Then I started thinking. Having the stigma of The Midnight Rockers would make both of us work doubly hard to establish our own image. Under those circumstances, I agreed to the name. And the fans know us. It was hard in the beginning, but now people know who The Midnight Rockers are. We're fast and we're pretty, but we ain't Morton and Gibson and we ain't Condrey and Eaton.

"We're Marty Jannetty and Sean Michaels. And we won't be stopped." □

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